



No time for face time: Large companies are moving to videoconferencing to connect project teams scattered across the globe. PAGE 34.

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Has slump hit bottom?

VC survey produces optimism, but other indicators less rosy.

BY CAROLYN DUFFY MARSAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The network industry got mixed economic news last week. A survey showed venture capital spending has come out of its nosedive, but Senate leaders shelved a proposed tax break that could have boosted corporate IT spending.

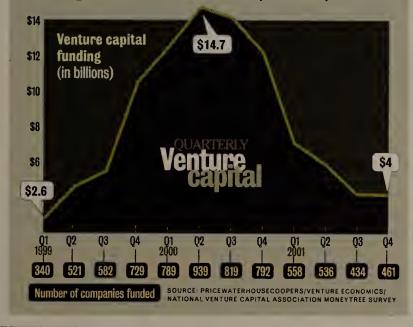
The venture funding news and other positive developments prompted experts to conclude the 18-month industry slide has likely hit rock bottom. However, they remain cautious about how quickly the industry will rebound.

"We're seeing a glimmer of hope," says Harris Miller, president of the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), a

See VC survey, page 12

A hopeful sign?

The slide in venture capital funding for network companies appears to be bottoming out, as fourth quarter funding was roughly the same as that of the previous quarter.



Sniffer taking on new duties

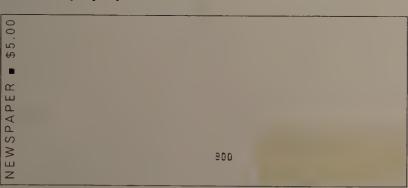
BY ELLEN MESSMER

SANTA CLARA — Network Associates, which ditched its intrusion-detection systems last spring, is planning a fresh assault on this market because of customers' heightened awareness of security

The company's plan centers

around adding threat-assessment capabilities to Sniffer, the packetanalysis product line that Network Associates says 100,000 customers use.

"Later this year we will have IDS software modules for all versions of Sniffer," says Rich Van de Groenekan, a product manager for Network Associates.



The company based its earlier proactive security technology effort on its CyberCop line of IDS appliances and software, most of which was discontinued last April due to slow sales, just three months after George Samenuk took over as the company's CEO. The IDS technology being built for Sniffer derives in part from CyberCop, which ironically was developed through a mid-1990s venture between WheelGroup (now part of Cisco) and Network General, the company that created Sniffer and later merged with McAfee Associates to form Network Associates.

While companies such as Internet Security Systems and

See Sniffer, page 14

Alcatel set to launch IP offensive

BY PHIL HOCHMUTH

PARIS - Alcatel will make a hard charge at U.S. businesses this week with a variety of high-end IP products aimed at putting the European company on the short lists of convergence-minded corporate IT buyers.

The vendor's new enterprise Ethernet network core and edge switches — set to be unveiled at the Alcatel Forum customer conference — purportedly offer the highest concentration of Layer 2-Layer 4 Gigabit Ethernet ports on the market, while two new VPN offerings could help users more effectively secure remote connections into corporate networks. With this multiproduct push, Alcatel is looking to compete more aggressively with Cisco, Avaya, Nortel and Enterasys

Competitively, what may help Alcatel is a product line that now includes high-end datacom products as well as traditional and IP voice gear, observers say. Competitors Avaya and Nortel offer data products and split the PBX market in the U.S., but have been slow to get IP voice products out the door (Siemens announced voice-over-IP products this week; see page 15 for details). And while chief rival Cisco owns the

See Alcatel, page 49

Vive la VolP

Alcatel is set to make a big splash with a family of IP voice and data gear that promises to support

more users while providing customers with end-toend QoS and security. Included in the announcement:

- The 16-slot **OmniSwitch** 8800 backbone (pictured), 10-slot 7700 and 18-slot 7800 wiring closet switches feature Layer 2-Layer 4 switching, hardware-based ACLs, QoS and load balancing.
- The OmniAccess 250 for large site-to-site VPNs and OmniAccess 210 for small branch offices. The 250 will support 70M bit/sec of Triple-DES traffic, while the 210 will offer throughput of 10M bit/sec.



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News

- **8** Industry heavyweights launch **Web Service Interoperability** Organization.
- **8 Equinix** readies network services.
- 10 Application service providers look to change stripes.
- **10 Sun** promises to **drive Linux** deeper into its product line.
- 14 Palm OS to boast full Web browser.
- 14 Free-speech lawsuit filed against Network Associates.

Infrastructure

- 15 Siemens unveils remote voice-over-IP gear.
- **15** Quick Eagle launches WAN access box with service-level verification pack.
- **16** Dell hooks up with Cray to offer server clustering.
- 16 Dave Kearns: Keeping up with the times.

Enterprise Applications

- 17 Users find hosted customer relationship management applications hit bull's-eye.
- 18 Scott Bradner:

Crustacean security.

Net.Worker

- 21 Not part of the cable and DSL boom?
- 21 GigaFast switch is a small wonder.

Service Providers

- 23 Larger outsourcers taking more direct role in application service provider market.
- 23 Sprint prepares frame service with IP twist.
- 24 Johna Till Johnson: Why Wall Street's got the carriers

The Edge

25 Tracking traffic for trends.

Cool Tools gives thumbs up to some new products, including this slim NEC MultiSync LCD 1550V monitor.

Technology Update

- 29 Intelligent route control improves BGP.
- 29 Steve Blass: Ask Dr. Internet.
- 30 Mark Gibbs: Spring
- 30 Keith Shaw: Products that have graced the Cool Tools lab.

Opinions

- 32 Editorial: Don't miss the VON VoIP Showdown.
- 33 Joel Snyder: Integrating the 'Net into net management.
- 33 Frank Dzubeck: Assessing the Gerstner era.
- 50 Backspin: Let the software buyer beware.
- 50 'Net Buzz: Changing the weather is easier than choking off spam.

Management Strategies

■ **37** Slim down, shape up: Putting your network on a simplification diet can pay off."



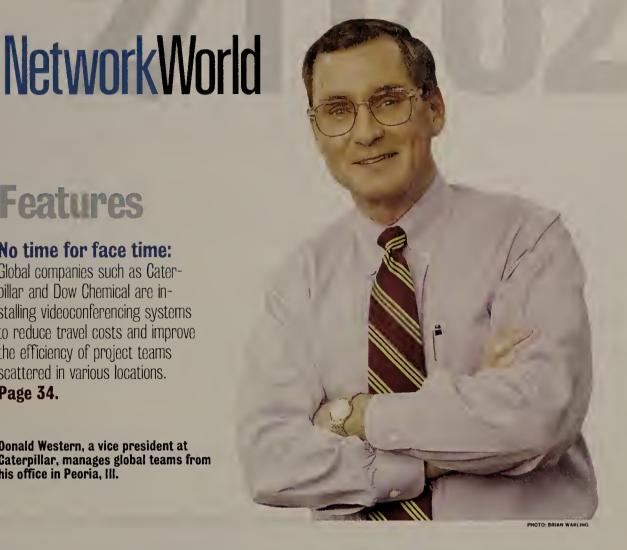
Features

No time for face time:

Global companies such as Caterpillar and Dow Chemical are installing videoconferencing systems to reduce travel costs and improve the efficiency of project teams scattered in various locations.

Page 34.

Donald Western, a vice president at Gaterpillar, manages global teams from his office in Peoria, III.



NetworkWorldFusion

Research

XML

XML is used to store and share data across platforms. Our audio primer explains its history, benefits and drawbacks. DocFinder: 8049

Voice over IP

New research page contains:

- Primers and tutorials
- Quality of service
- Standards
- Regulation
- · Case studies and more.

DocFinder: 8050

Forums

AT&T and NAT

A reader writes: "Can NAT be stopped? Could AT&T . . . prohibit its use on their network?" Our featured forum on Net.Worker has generated more questions than answers in response to Toni Kistner's column.

DocFinder: 8051

A new version of BorderManager

With Novell set to release a new version of its defunct product Border-Manager in April, many see this as a good thing.

DocFinder: 8052

■ CONTACT US Network World, 118 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA 01772; Phone: (508) 460-3333; Fax: (508) 490-6438; E-mail: nwnews@nww.com; STAFF: See the masthead on page 8 for more contact information. REPRINTS: (717) 399-1900

SUBSCRIPTIONS/CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Phone: (508) 490-6444; Fax: (508) 490-6400; E-mail: nwcirc@nww.com; URL: www.nwwsubscribe.com

Columnists

Compendium

The evil inside

Fusion Executive Editor Adam Gaffin brings us to SecurityFocus' Web site, where instead of worrying about outside hackers they write about protecting yourself from evil insiders. DocFinder: 8053

Help Desk

Novell solutions

Columnist Ron Nutter addresses a user's problems integrating an Active Directory server with a Novell Directory Services tree. DocFinder: 8054

Keeping Current

Why we need a single Twinax spec

Columnist Fred McClimans offers his response to Jeff Caruso's latest LAN newsletter on the reason for Twinax.

DocFinder: 8055

Ne Smart

Voice-over-IP training

With equipment provided by Avaya, NetSmart's voice-over-IP training explains the technology behind the merging of voice and data. DocFinder: 8056

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We've made it easy to access articles and resources online. Simply enter the four-digit DocFinder number in the search box on the home page, and you'il jump directly to the requested information.



Bad news plagues Enterasys

■ Enterasys Networks has postponed its planned spinoff of network management software subsidiary Aprisma Management

Technologies after the company received word of an impending investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission. On Jan. 31 the company also discovered discrepancies between contracts pertaining to the same \$4 million account within its Asia Pacific region. CEO Henry Fiallo said in a conference call that the investigation and the discrepancy are "apparently unrelated."

Growth seen for Ethernet switch market

■ The worldwide Ethernet switch market will begin to creep back this year from its 2001 slump and pick up steam next year as companies look to upgrade aging wiring-closet boxes, according to Dell'Oro Group. A Dell'Oro report estimates that the market for Ethernet switches will climb from \$11.5 billion to \$18.9 billion in 2006. The growth will be linked to the fact that much of the equipment purchased in 1999 will be ready to be replaced beginning this year and into next year, the research firm says. This is in line with a standard three- to four-year technology upgrade cycle businesses tend to follow. New technologies such as 10G Ethernet, and the dropping price of Gigabit and Layer 3 switches, will also drive market growth.

BT presses on with hyperlink suit

With a court date set for this week, British Telecom will press ahead with its patent-infringement lawsuit against Prodigy, even if the lawsuit brings BT bad publicity, says BT Chairman Christopher Bland. In the lawsuit, BT alleges that it owns the patent to hyperlink technology and that the U.S. ISP is using the technology without authorization. On Dec. 13, 2000, BT filed suit in federal court in White Plains, N.Y. "If the court decides in our favor, that would be nice. If the court doesn't decide in our favor, that would not be nice," Bland says. "But the idea of dropping the suit to increase the 'feel good' factor with ISPs in the U.S. would be a bizarre notion for us here in the U.K." After discovering in a routine check that it owned the patent, BT wrote to 17 U.S. ISPs, including Prodigy, asking them to pay for the privilege of using the technology.

Sun debuts storage gear, software

Sun last week rolled out several hardware storage systems and new storage management software that signals its intent to manage and support multivendor storage. The company announced a sweeping storage management plan, first reported in *Network*

World in December 2001, as well as its intent to ship two midrange storage arrays. The storage management software will monitor and manage other vendors' storage arrays and focus on four areas: availability, performance, utilization and resource management. The new arrays are the midrange Sun StorEdge 3900 and 6900. The 3900 is geared toward clustering and high-performance computing applications. The 6900 is designed to consolidate servers and virtualize storage.

House approves funding for security research

■ The U.S. House of Representatives last week passed a bill designed to fund research and workforce training in computer security. By a vote of 400 to 12, the Cyber Security Research and Development Act passed the House and has moved on to the Senate. The bill calls for \$880 million to fund programs designed by the National Science Foundation and National Institute of Standards and Technology to create new cybersecurity research centers, offer grants and scholarships to students pursuing computer security studies, and encourage senior researchers to study the field. The \$880 million would be spent over five years.

Microsoft patches Telnet code . . . again

■ Microsoft last week acknowledged new vulnerabilities in the Telnet code included in Windows 2000, eight months after issuing a patch that fixed seven other security holes in Win 2000's Telnet. A buffer overflow attack — an attack in which the amount of memory allotted to an application is overrun — against the Telnet service could cause a



Togetherness. While it seems as if most vendor consortia never amount to much, it's good to seek the likes of IBM and Microsoft joining forces to create the Web Services Interoperability Organization. Given the confusion that surrounds this new concept, the forum's efforts can't hurt.

Cache crash. Caching product maker CacheFlow last week axed half of its 400 employees and said it expects to post revenue for its third quarter of between \$10.5 million and \$10.9 million, roughly half of what it pulled in during the corresponding quarter the year before.

Gell chic. What's more annoying than hearing a cell phone go off in the middle of a movie or meeting? Seeing that it's gold- or diamond-covered — a new trend from Nokia (with its new Vertu subsidiary) and Ericsson and their partners, which are targeting the very wealthy with communication devices costing tens of thousands of dollars. > —

OAN VASCORCILLOS

denial of service, or in some cases, let the attacker run any code in Win 2000 or Interix 2.2, Microsoft says. Telnet is a common-line program often used for remote access to systems. Interix is a program that lets users run Unix applications in Win 2000. Microsoft has issued a patch that fixes the problem in both applications.

AT&T Wireless-TeleCorp deal to be sealed

■ AT&T Wireless' acquisition of TeleCorp PCS is expected to receive regulatory approval this week. AT&T Wireless announced its intention to buy the wireless service provider in October for \$4.7 billion in stock. On Friday, 94% of TeleCorp PCS shareholders approved the merger. Once the transaction is complete, AT&T Wireless will fully own TeleCorp PCS' assets. AT&T Wireless currently owns 23% of the company. The TeleCorp PCS assets will allow AT&T Wireless to expand its network primarily in the Southeast and the Midwest. Some of the most populated locales where TeleCorp PCS has wireless coverage include: Baton Rouge, La.; Birmingham, Ala.; Des Moines, Iowa; Jackson, Miss.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Lexington, Ky.; Little Rock, Ark.; Louisville, Ky.; Madison, Wis.; Memphis, Tenn.; Milwaukee; Mobile, Ala.; Nashville; New Orleans and Puerto Rico.



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Web services group push interoperability

Experts say standards aren't solving problems; Sun declines to participate.

BY MATT BERGER

A group of industry heavyweights has formed a consortium to ensure that Web services developers implement common standards in the same way.

The consortium, called the Web Services Interoperability Organization, was announced last week and includes Microsoft, Hewlett-

♠ € You'd be surprised how little interoperability there really is despite standards. 77

Mike Gilpin

Giga Information Group

Packard, IBM, BEA Systems, Oracle, Intel and SAP.

Absent from the group is Sun, creator of Java and one of the most prominent companies developing new tools and software for Web services. Sun executives

were not available to comment on if Sun plans to join the effort, a company spokesman says.

The list of standards includes XML, Simple Object Access Protocol, Web Services Description Language and Universal Description Discovery and Integration.

But while the industry has rallied around the standards, few have taken steps to ensure their products will interoperate, says Mike Gilpin, a research fellow at Giga Information Group.

"You'd be surprised how little interoperability there really is despite standards," says Gilpin, adding that many companies support common standards but use them in proprietary ways. "Two different companies can build a Web service, each one following the same specification yet using different options, and those services would not be able to talk to each other."

Web services have been touted as a way to let applications of different types and from different vendors communicate with each other in a common way over the Internet. In the business world,

Got standards?

The Web Services Interoperability Organization (www. ws-i.org) has been launched with big-name backing.

- Provide implementation guidance to help customers with Web services
- Promote interoperability among Web services across platforms, applications, and programming languages.
- Articulate a common industry vision for Web services interoperability.

Major players:

Forty initial members include IBM, Microsoft, BEA, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, Accenture, Oracle, Iona Technologies, Compaq, Groove Networks, Reuters Group, Ford and DaimlerChrysler.

Web services could allow a company to automatically share data with partners in its supply chain.

To overcome the problem of implementing standards in different ways, the group plans to create a variety of test suites that will let vendors and customers make sure their software interoperates. Tests will be self-administered and are intended to help uncover "unconventional usage or errors in specification implementations," the group says.

The problem is that as various

software vendors raced to keep up with the latest standards, each creating its own, slightly different implementation, according to Rod Smith, vice president of Internet emerging technology at IBM.

"Customers didn't want to wait for the standards to be done, but they expected all of us to upgrade our systems," Smith says.

Berger is a correspondent for IDG News Service's San Fran-

EXECUTIVE EDITOR, NEWS: BOB BROWN ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR: MICHAEL COONEY ASSOCIATE NEWS FOITOR: PAUL MCNAMARA

■ INFRASTRUCTURE

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■ ENTERPRISE APPLICATIONS

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SENIOR WRITER: JENNIFER MEARS, (608) 275-6807; Fax: (608) 275-6814

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Equinix reinforces network services

■ BY DENISE PAPPALARDO

Equinix this week is announcing a suite of services aimed at helping users reduce network costs and simplify management of multiple ISP connections.

The service provider is launching three network services for its collocation customers at its six Internet data centers:

- Intelligent Routing Service that lets customers use the leastexpensive bandwidth available, providing that bandwidth maintains performance metrics.
- Managed Router Service that lets users hand off Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) management, used to balance traffic loads between multiple ISP connections, to Equinix.
- Command Center monitoring service that lets users track the performance and availability of their servers collocated at Equinix's data centers.

The company's Intelligent Routing Service lets businesses that buy dedicated Internet access

services from multiple ISPs use the least-expensive connection. That connection typically is based on a per-megabit price negotiated between the customer and the ISP, as long as the connection meets the minimum delay, network availability and jitter-performance metrics stipulated by the customer.

If that connection no longer meets the performance requirements, the system automatically reroutes traffic to another connection.

Equinix is deploying NetVmg intelligent router software within its data centers to support the service. Pricing is based on how many megabits of traffic Equinix is managing each month.

Other intelligent router vendors such as Sockeye, offer similar services for customers that use multiple dedicated ISP connections to support their networks.

The company's Managed Router Service also targets customers that use multiple ISP connections, but may not have the inhouse expertise to handle the routing support. Specifically, the Equinix service picks up the task of managing the BGP routing, which is used to manage traffic loads between multiple ISPs and to ensure redundancy in the case of a network outage.

Finally, Equinix's Command Center service employs a monitoring tool from NOCpulse that lets customers remotely monitor, manage and control applications and network devices via one portal site.

The software tool lets users monitor server uptime at any of Equinix's data centers and also lets users monitor service-level agreements.

The ability to better manage its servers and network environment, as well as improve its customer service experience, were the prime reasons why Washingtonpost.Newsweek Interactive moved to Equinix in November, says Eric Schvimmer, vice president of technology at the online publication. Since moving to Equinix and using the NOCpulse product, Schvimmer and his team have been able to improve server uptime.

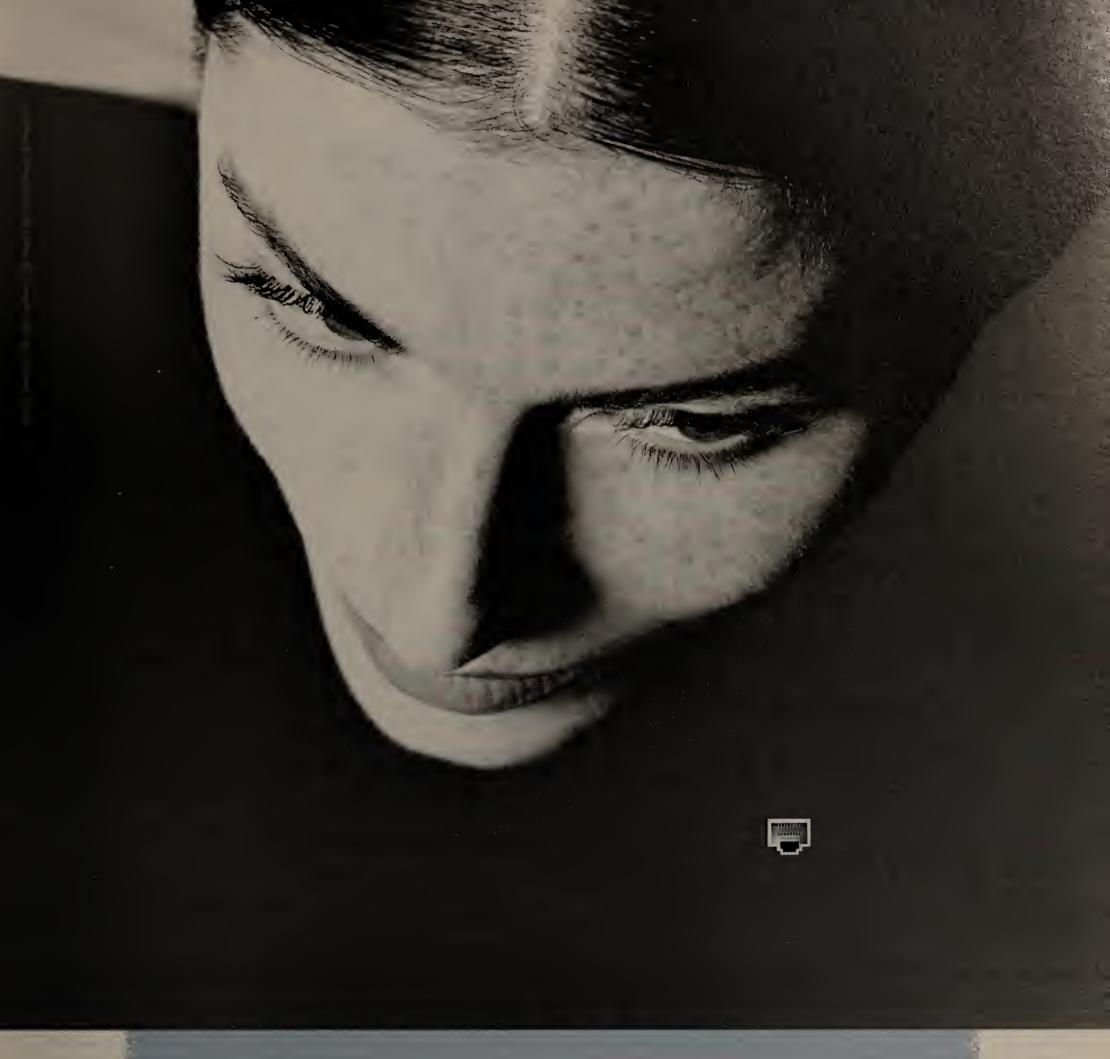
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ASPs aim to change stripes

■ BY JENNIFER MEARS AND ANN BEDNARZ

These days, technology vendors are not above drastic measures to restore corporate health and prosperity. Napster, for example, is piloting a paid subscription model in an effort to gain back the users it lost when lawsuits paralyzed its free song-swapping service.

On the enterprise side, Jamcracker, eConvergent and Partnerware this week are debuting software and services that signify new directions for the respective companies.

Instead of delivering third-party application service provider (ASP) software, Jamcracker now will sell its integration platform to businesses for internal use. The company will roll out Jamcracker Enterprise 3, which is designed for large companies that want to link internal and external Webbased applications and content, says Todd Johnson, a Jamcracker senior vice president. The latest version of the XML-based platform includes enhanced security and directory synchronization capabilities, as well as portal features from Epicentric.

When Jamcracker launched in 2000, the firm billed itself as an

ASPs in transition

These companies have moved away from an ASP business model to better capture enterprise demand.

Company	What they do now	What they did	
Jamcracker	Provide a managed infrastructure platform to integrate disparate Web-enabled applications and content	Aggregated offerings from multiple ASPs.	
Partnerware	Provide channel management software and professional services	Offered hosted channel management services	
eConvergent	Sell licensed software for customer data integration	Provided integrated and hosted CRM applications from third-party vendors	
Interliant	Offer managed messaging, managed hosting, Web hosting, managed security services, professional services	Delivered ERP and e-commerce applications	
TeleComputing	Provide infrastructure for service providers to deliver Web-based applications	Offered hosted Microsoft-based applications	

ASP aggregator. It did not host applications itself, but instead acted as the conduit through which midsize companies could receive a variety of hosted applications from ASPs and other Webbased software providers.

With the ASP market failing to grow as quickly as expected, Jamcracker executives opted to change their strategy and instead use the technology they've created to help customers handle their growing application integration requirements.

Similarly, eConvergent's expertise in integrating different applications was a factor in its conversion from service provider to software developer. Previously, eConvergent integrated and hosted customer relationship management (CRM) applications from third-party vendors including E.piphany and Kana; this week the company is releasing software for customer data integration.

Meanwhile, Partnerware is trading in its hosted channel management offering for a combination of packaged software and professional services.

For Partnerware, the decision to move from being an ASP to an enterprise software vendor came from the top. Former Tivoli Systems and IBM executive Donna Troy took over as CEO last March and initiated an overhaul of the company's management team and its product line.

The ASP offering wasn't strong enough for large companies, Troy says. With Partnerware TCX Insight, the company's rebuilt Java-based product, a customer can deploy the modules it needs to manage relationships with its indirect sales channel, including resellers, distributors and retailers. Coupled with Partnerware's TCX Foresight professional services, the channel management software can be custom-configured and integrated with a firm's CRM and enterprise resource planning (ERP) applications.

"Linux has made more inroads in the market by wiping out Unix on the low end than it has Windows," says Bill Claybrook, an analyst for the Aberdeen Group. "Sun is losing customers to Linux. [Customers] don't want to run Linux on Solaris on SPARC. They want to run them in native

mode on Intel."

Claybrook says Sun wouldn't be making such a

big Linux move if that wasn't the case. "No one is using Solaris on Intel," he says. "Sun knows that — there are about a million copies of Solaris for Intel out there that are not being used in production."

The introduction of Linux servers based on the x86 architecture may help Sun keep its Solaris customer base.

Amerada Hess, an oil exploration company in Houston, migrated several applications from Solaris and Unix to Linux in the past two years. "Basically there was a significant cost savings from what we were using in the past to what we are using today," says Jeff Davis, a senior systems programmer at Hess.

"We were able to move from proprietary Unix vendor hardware to off-the-shelf Intel-based hardware and off-the-Internet software," Davis says. He says he prefers to use Linux, but will use Solaris for applications that haven't been ported to Linux.

Familiar territory

Jamcracker, eConvergent and Partnerware are not alone in redefining their business models, especially among ASPs battling to stay in business.

Jessica Goepfert, an analyst at IDC, says many ASPs are reshaping and fine-tuning their strategies. Corio and USinternetworking recently announced plans to offer their application management expertise in corporate data centers.

Analysts say the modifications

make sense, particularly for Jamcracker. "With the slow end-user adoption of even one ASP service, the demand for an aggregator to pull together multiple ASP services has been pushed out even further," Goepfert says.

Last May, TeleComputing, one of the first ASPs when it launched in Norway in 1997, decided to alter its U.S.-based service to focus on service providers. So in the U.S. instead of delivering hosted Microsoft-based applications to corporations, as it still does in Europe, TeleComputing is licensing its automated provisioning technology, called TECOS, to service providers that want to augment revenue with ASP services.

Interliant is another ASP that changed focus last year, trimming its offerings in response to the difficult economic conditions. Interliant CEO Herb Hribar blamed the slow adoption of the ASP model as he announced plans to stop offering high-end applications such as ERP, CRM and ecommerce. Interliant now focuses on areas where it had seen greater demand: managed messaging (including Lotus Domino and Microsoft Exchange), managed hosting, Web hosting, managed security services and professional services.

200stand and be counted

Network World is officially launching the data-collection process for the Network World 200 — our annual list of the industry's 200 largest and most influential companies.

If your company is public, has revenue of more than \$50 million and is a network player, send a description of your company's products and/or services, your Web address and contact information to nw200@ldg.com. It's not necessary to forward any other information at this time.

Sun promises Linux push

BY DENI CONNOR

SANTA CLARA — Sun's promise to drive Linux deeper into its product lineup should be welcome news for network executives, say users and analysts who see the open source operating system as an affordable alternative to Solaris for low- to midrange applications.

While Sun officials declined to discuss details of each Linux-related product before a formal announcement in the second quarter of this year, they did say the plans include:

- Distribution of a version of Linux.
- Porting its Sun ONE application suite to the platform.
- Introducing a series of entry-level single- and multiprocessing x86-based servers for single applications such as Web serving and caching.
- Using GNOME software as the standard desktop interface for Solaris.
- Creating an enhanced set of developer tools.
- Supporting Linux servers attached to Sun StorEdge arrays.

Analysts say Sun's strategy is aimed at customers who are being wooed away from Solaris by the money they can save deploying applications on low-cost Intel servers.



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VC survey

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lobbying group with 500 members, including IBM, Microsoft and Novell. "It's going to be a tough year, but various indicators that I tend to look to and trust ... have bottomed out. So that's good news."

"It's going to be a slow recovery," says Bill Collatos, managing general partner at Spectrum Equity Investors, which specializes in communications start-ups." I think the worst is over. The shakeouts and [low] valuations have happened. There are still companies that are lingering that won't make it, but they'll get flushed through this year. I think some cautious bets should be made this year."

The latest venture capital data indicates that investments in network start-ups are settling at \$4 billion per quarter. This comes amid other promising economic news, including a drop in the unemployment rate and an increase in manufacturing activity during January. Many economists predict an overall recovery will begin soon.

Analysts say the network industry's recovery depends on how quickly and to what extent chief executives loosen their grip on IT budgets and let network executives upgrade hardware, add bandwidth and roll out applications. One possible sign of that trend starting was last week's announcement of higher-than-expected earnings by network bell-wether Cisco, although its stock price dropped anyway amid continued investor jitters.

Gartner foresees few major changes to corporate networks in 2002. The consultancy says network executives will continue to invest in technology that improves productivity, reduces costs and has a quick return. Among the likely investments are security, storage and Webbased applications.

"Most companies are not looking at doing anything internally unless there's a 20% return on investment in the first year," says Dave Neil, a vice president at Gartner. "If that is the situation, then companies are willing to spend money on new applications or infrastructure."

Neil says one of the exceptions to this rule is network security. "Companies will continue to invest where there's a threat to the enterprise…but these are not going to be multimillion dollar purchases," he adds.

With the macroeconomic news improving, network executives seem ready to make modest investments in infrastructure and applications.

Carlson Hospitality Worldwide is encouraging owners of its 700-plus Regent, Radisson and Country Inns and Suites hotels to upgrade internal data network links and upgrade to high-speed Internet access for guests.

"We are in the process of doing a complete broadband data network upgrade to our Radisson and Country Inn brands," says Jim Grimshaw, director of hotel systems. "Some of our smaller properties and [ones in] tertiary cities on slower dial-up lines are now hardware and software at a faster rate than is allowed currently. The tax code changes would have applied to purchases made after Sept. 11. Proposals differed on how much extra depreciation would be allowed and for how many years.

By accelerating the depreciation of network gear, lawmakers would have given corporate IT buyers a discount on their purchases. Industry observers say these tax code changes would better reflect the modern business environment, where high-tech equipment quickly becomes obsolete after purchase.

The death of the economic stimulus package is "very unfortunate,"

ly double the amount invested before that bubble. These figures are from a special analysis of quarterly venture capital data compiled for *Network World* by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the National Venture Capital Association and Venture Economics.

According to the MoneyTree Venture Capital Survey, more than 460 network start-ups received an average of \$8.75 million last fall. Sixty network start-ups closed deals worth \$20 million or more. Among the hot areas for investment were enterprise-class software, security and Internet infrastructure.

The latest venture capital figures follow five quarters of steep de-

"We're still more than double what we saw in 1998 and well above historical norms," Lefteroff says. He adds that "the level of activity in the first quarter [of 2002] so far is very encouraging."

Among the largest deals of the quarter was \$62 million invested in Cogent Communications, which provides high-speed Internet access to multitenant buildings. Cogent CEO Dave Schaeffer says the company's roster 4,000 corporate customers was a factor attracting venture funding and an additional \$99 million in debt financing last quarter.

"We see extremely strong demand because of the radical pricing we bring to the market," Schaeffer says.

Cogent offers 100M bit/sec Internet service for \$1,000 per month. This service is about 65 times the bandwidth of a T-1 line, which costs about \$1,400 per month.

"Because our service is an [upgrade] in terms of quality and reliability, and it's less expensive, we think we're going to have a very good year,' Schaeffer says. "But the market in general will continue to be a tough one."

Despite their cautious outlook for this year, experts remain bullish on the long-term prospects of the network industry.

Mark Heesen, president of the National Venture Capital Association, predicts that the level of investment this year won't match the record-breaking year of 2000. "But those were unrealistic levels. We do see some conservative growth throughout this year, and that's very good news."

Spectrum Equity's Collatos has noticed modest increases in follow-on investments for existing portfolio companies and new, early-stage investments. However, he says most of the investment is geared toward evolutionary rather than revolutionary network technologies. He blames the collapse of the competitive local exchange carrier market for this shift.

"I see evolutionary changes, from 10G [bit/sec] to 40G bit/sec, in the circuit infrastructure. I see increasing voice traffic in the IP environment. But the revolutionary stuff — the construction of the last-mile broadband to the home . . . and the transition from traditional electrical to optical switches — will not happen this year," Collatos says. "That's going to take a long time."

Top 10 deals

Here's where the biggest chunks of venture funding went during the fourth quarter.

Company	Location	Funding	Description
Cogent Communications	Washington, D.C.	\$62M	Building-based Internet access
SS8 Networks	San Jose	\$62M	Signaling technology for the Internet
Telica	Marlborough, Mass.	\$60M	Telecommunications equipment
Groove Networks	Beverly, Mass.	\$54M	PC/Internet communication software
Zambeel	Fremont, Calif.	\$52.6M	Storage systems
Primarion	Tempe, Ariz.	\$47M	Mixed signal offerings that increase bandwidth
Innovance Networks	Piscataway, N.J.	\$45M	Photonic network technology
Avolent	San Francisco	\$40M	Internet billing and invoicing software
Callidus Software	San Jose	\$40M	Performance system applications
Xanoptix	Merrimack, N.H.	\$39M	High-speed optical connection products

SOURCE PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS/VENTURE ECONOMICS/NATIONAL VENTURE CAPITAL ASSOCIATION MONEYTREE SURVEY

going to fractional T-1s, DSL and ISDN-type connections. We're going to a minimum standard of 128 kilobits [per second]."

Grimshaw says Carlson's hotels increasingly use centralized applications, the Internet and e-mail, which is driving the need for a more powerful data network.

"The little capital expenditures that are required will be well returned over time," he says.

The Senate's decision to end its debate on economic stimulus legislation was a blow to corporate IT buying plans such as Carlson's. Despite President Bush's appeal in his recent State of the Union address, Senate Democrats and Republicans couldn't agree on a bill designed to improve the economy through a combination of tax cuts and unemployment assistance.

Proponents of an economic stimulus package supported changes to the tax code that would have let companies depreciate investments in network

ITAA's Miller says. "It would clearly have accelerated spending on hardware, telecom and Internet-related software because now the depreciation schedule in the tax code is way out of line with the useful life of these products. CFOs who are unsure about spending money on updating routers or software would have been tipped toward that direction if they were told the product was essentially on sale."

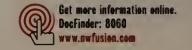
Such tax breaks would "certainly influence the next decisions we need to make in terms of how quickly we scale up our data network infrastructure," Carlson's Grimshaw says.

On a more positive note, venture capital invested in start-ups appears to have stabilized. A key indicator of the health of the network industry, the amount of these investments leveled off at \$4 billion during the fourth quarter of 2001. While that figure is off 73% from the high-water mark of the Internet boom, it's still rough-

clines. Investments peaked in the second quarter of 2000, when \$14.7 billion was poured into 939 network start-ups. The amount invested and the number of deals dropped steadily until the third and fourth quarters of 2001, when \$4 billion was invested in each quarter.

"Venture investments are showing good signs of recovery," says Tracy Lefteroff, global managing partner for the venture capital practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers. "Despite the tough economy and the events of Sept. 11, we see activity across the board in venture funds, and we hear that the climate is improving. We think we have bottomed out and are clearly on the road to recovery."

The survey reports total investment in network start-ups during 2001 surpassed \$20.8 billion. This compares with \$53.5 billion in 2000 and \$22.9 billion in 1999. Moreover, last year was the third-best year for venture capital investments in the network industry.



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14 Water kWorld 2/11/02 News www.nwfusion.com

Palm OS to boast full Web browser

M BY LINDA LEUNG

Later this year, users of Palm OS devices for the first time will get a fully equipped Web browser with the Palm OS operating system that will provide access to all things Web.

Palm OS 5 is being hailed by PalmSource executives as the version of the operating system that will "fuse personal and professional users." For network managers, the new operating system promises

The new operating sys-

improved security and

built-in support for IEEE

802.11b wireless LANs.

tem promises vastly

vastly improved security and built-in support for IEEE 802.11b wireless LANs. A doubling of screen resolution, to 320-by-320 pixels, will make the Palm more suitable for business-class applications.

But many of the advanced features will be missing from the first re-

lease of OS 5, due this summer. They may be included by year-end.

For example, the OS 5 security enhancements include support for certificate management and software code signing, which lets software run only if it has been digitally signed by a known and trusted entity. The technology is designed to prevent rogue software from running. But neither of these changes will be available until some time in the next two years, says Steve Sakoman, chief product officer of PalmSource. PalmSource is licensing the browser from a third party that he declined to name.

The initial OS 5 release will offer a VPN option. Using this option, companies could create a secure, encrypted connection between a Palm OS 5 client and a corporate network. This option will be included in a distribution early this summer.

Support for the Java Virtual Machine, which will let Palm OS 5 handhelds natively run any Java application, will be available later this year

Also missing from the initial release will be support for the emerging IEEE 802.11a wireless LAN standard, up to 54M bit/sec over 5-GHz bandwidth, because of a lack of demand from users, Sakoman says. "Almost all product deployment [now] is on 802.11b, which is supported by a lot of established chips," he says. PalmSource says it will wait for market demand for 802.11a before it is included in a later version of the platform.

The new operating system will feature a built-in emulator, so users can run Palm OS 4 applications on OS 5 devices. If developers have followed Palm's published set of application programming interfaces for OS 4, applications should run unmodified, Sakoman says. Palm executives estimate that 80% of existing programs will run on devices using the new operating system.

Currently, users of wireless Palm devices access specially created Web sites that are part of the company's Palm.net network. The information on these sites is formatted using Palm's Web clipping technology, which eliminates unneeded graphical elements and optimizes the resulting page for Palm's small screen. Some Palm OS

licensees, such as Handspring with its Blazer browser, let users access the Internet through a proxy server.

Sakoman says Palm OS 5 users should expect a browser more closely aligned with the operating system.

"We will be shipping a Web browser with the platform later this year that will allow people to run wild on the World Wide Web. Unlike HandSpring's Blazer, it will not be proxy-based," he says.



continued from page 1

Symantec (through its Axent acquisition) have jumped into the early lead in the \$500 million market, observers say Network Associates should prove to be a competitor with its new strategy.

With the advent of dangerous computer worms, the IDS market has a lot in common with the antivirus market, where Network Associates is the leader and generates much of its \$834 million annual revenue. Both antivirus and IDS businesses are constantly monitor for threats and update customers' software to recognize those threats.

Network Associates has been talking up the importance of returning to the IDS market for months in meetings with analysts and others, with Sniffer Technologies President Baku Mehta pointing out it could be done by adding IDS to Sniffer.

Network Associates' infusion of IDS technology into Sniffer starts in a small way this week, with the unveiling of Sniffer Investigator, which is an \$8,000 software/laptop computer combination that inspects and analyzes 280 protocols and produces reports based on that information. The device comes with filtering software that will watch for certain worm and Trojan horse threats, such as Nimda and MyParty.

"This filter won't do eradication of worms, but it will recognize them in the frame, and trigger an alert," Van de Groenekan says. "For small and midsized businesses that can't afford a full-fledged IDS, this will provide alerts for them."

Network Associates preinstalls the software on the laptop

Free-speech lawsuit filed against Network Associates

he New York State attorney general has charged that Network Associates is violating the consumer's First Amendment right to free speech because language pinned to most of the vendor's software diskettes demands that no benchmarking or public reviews be done without Network Associates' permission.

The offending language, associated with Network Associates' firewalls, antivirus software and other security products in the past, specifically says that customers "shall not disclose any benchmarking tests or publish reviews of products without Network Associates' consent."

At a press conference last week, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer said the state is demanding Network Associates renounce the wording or face a court fight. Spitzer said his office has met with representatives from Network Associates over the past few months to get them to change the wording on the software diskettes to his satisfaction, but to no avail.

For its part, Network Associates general counsel Kent Roberts says the rationale for having legal wording about "benchmarking" and "consent" is that Network Associates wants to ensure that reviewers are using the most up-to-date version of the software.

As evidence in the case, Spitzer cited an email exchange between Network Associates and Network World in July 1999 in which the vendor claimed Network World had violated its license restrictions in a firewall product review. Network World is not a party to the lawsuit.

(For more on this story, see www.nwfusion.com, DocFinder: 8058)

- Ellen Messmer

because it works best on dedicated hardware where other applications don't interfere, he says.

Network Associates intends to add IDS modules to its Sniffer Basic and Pro products later this year, but the biggest overhaul is expected to be for the Sniffer Distributed product, which is used mainly by large companies. Sniffer Distributed relies on protocol analyzers that sit across a network and present "big picture" views of traffic flows and network usage to a central monitor. Network Associates says it has yet to determine whether to roll out a new Sniffer Distributed with built-in IDS capabilities or just add software to the existing line.

Some customers are skeptical of Network Associates' plans.

Adding IDS into Sniffer "on the surface might appear to be a good decision," says Donald Woeltje, network manager with St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleview, Ill. "But you can bet that in doing so, they are going to raise the price of the product again." Or, he speculates that the company will introduce a new edition of Sniffer that won't be covered under existing maintenance agreements.

While some beta users like Sniffer Investigator, they balk at having to buy a separate laptop. "I can't justify that when we buy new laptops every year and a half," says Jeff Talamini, vice president of IT at ISP LANLine Communications, in White Plains, N.Y.

IDS history lesson

How intrusion-detection systems have evolved at Network Associates:

April '97: Network General, maker of the Sniffer protocol analysers, form a partnership with WheelGroup to develop IDS products eventually sold under the CyberCop name.

Dec. '97: McAfee Associates and Network General merge, becoming Network Associates.

April '01: Facing a net loss of \$24.3 million for Q1, Network Associates axes most of the CyberCop products.



Feb. '02: Network Associates' Sniffer Technologies division announces plans to add intrusion detection into its Sniffer line, which the company says has a 100,000-user installed base.

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SERVERS OPERATING SYSTEMS

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■ SANcastle Technologies has rolled out a gateway that allows customers to bridge Fibre Channel networks with Gigabit Ethernet

SANcastle's **GFS-2** gateway is a rack-mountable 1U (1.75-inch-high) device that provides a point-to-point connection between the networks. In a typical configuration, two GFS-2s would connect remote SANs over the WAN or metropolitan-area network for replication capability.

The GFS-2 gateway is shipping now for \$15,000. www.sancastle

A lack of blade server standards may hinder implementations of the space-saving devices. according to a study released last week by Gartner.

Even with the potential user concern over a lack of compatibility, the ever-growing demand for server density (the ability to cram servers into as small a space as possible) will keep the worldwide blade server market growing from an estimated 84,810 units shipped this year to more than 1 million shipments by 2006, Gartner says.

Blade servers, which first hit the market last year, are servers contained on a card. The server cards - the so-called blades - can be installed in a chassis that has multiple slots, rather than installing servers into a rack cabinet one chassis at a time.

Potential users may be discouraged if a company's blade server appears to be proprietary, Gartner says. Rack-optimized servers have a track record for working with systems from different vendors, and

Currently, a lack of compatibility exists between blades from different vendors. Companies such as Hewlett-Packard, FiberCycle and RLX Technologies have already entered the blade server market. In January, HP released a Compact PCI blade server that runs the Linux operating system.

Siemens unveils remote VolP gear

Upgraded, renamed HiPath switch can support up to 100,000 users.

BY PHIL HOCHMUTH

Taking aim at enterprise voice-over-IP leaders Cisco and 3Com, Siemens last week unveiled several enterprise IP voice products aimed at helping traditional PBX users migrate to converged networks.

With some hardware and software upgrades, Siemens is recasting its HiCom small and midsize phone switches into the company's HiPath line of IP PBXs. The Hi-Path 3000 and 4000 switches could help businesses connect remote offices with disparate phone systems into a centralized, IP-based voice network, while supporting more users than Siemens' previous "IPenabled" HiCom PBXs.

With operating system and processor upgrades to the HiCom 150 and 300, Siemens says its new HiPath 3000 and 4000 can scale to 1,000 and 100,000 users, respectively. This is an big jump in scale from the HiCom 150 and 300, which topped out at 500 attached stations.

The HiPath products consist of the same chassis as the HiCom boxes, with a faster processor and software that let the chas-

Taking the HiPath

Siemen's hardware/software upgrades for the HiCom 150 and 300 PBXs provide a variety of voice-over-IP features, including:

Upgrades HiCom 150 and 300 PBXs to full IP or IP/circuit-switch mix

Support for up to 100,000 users in a 64-node cluster.

Management for HiPath clusters as a single system.

OptiPoint 500 IP phones with in-line power support and management tools.



sis switch and maintain phone connections over an all-IP network. Line cards can still be added to the boxes letting them support circuit-switched Siemens phones and can be connected to a Siemens phone network with a mix of IP and IP PBX hardware.

While Siemens is pushing the all-IP aspects of the new products, customers such as Chuck Wasson, vice president of technology for Citizens' Bank in Flint,

Mich., are looking to meld the circuitswitched and voice-over-IP technology.

Wasson needs to connect with a single phone network 64 banks that his company acquired in lowa, and is looking to do it with frame relay connections that can carry data and voice traffic.

By putting voice on the IP WAN, Wasson says, "we're looking to address problems that are keeping us from doing business."

See Siemens, page 16

Quick Eagle launches WAN access box with service-level verification pack

BY TIM GREENE

SUNNYVALE, CALIF — Business customers looking for a way to track carriers service-level agreements could try a new hardware platform and software from Quick Eagle that monitors performance of T-1 links.

The company says its new 4230 Access Platform can save customers money by combining the functions of individual devices that sit between corporate sites and service provider networks. With the appropriate software, it can function as a router, multiplexer, inverse multiplexer, DSU/CSU and monitoring probe.

The device comes configured as an enterprise WAN router and multiplexer with a single T-1 port, but it also contains software that can be activated to turn on a second T-1 port. The software then lets

these ports run as independent 1.5M bit/sec connections or be bonded into a single logical 3M bit/sec pipe. The individual T-1 ports can be adjusted to support fractional T-1 services.

The device can be configured so each T-1 is connected to a separate service, such as

nected to the same provider as independent T-1s. The two links also can be bonded together using the multilink point to point protocol.

The 4230 offers the same number of ports as a Cisco 1720 router, but the Cisco box is modular, so supports more WAN interfaces such as DSL, ISDN and Ethernet in addition to T-1. The Cisco box also supports priority queuing. The Cisco 1720



The Quick Eagle 4230 Access Platform can function as a DSU, WAN router and T-1 multiplexer or inverse multiplexer.

two different ISPs. Or both T-1s can be concosts more, at about \$2,200 vs. about \$1,700 for Quick Eagle's 4230.

The Quick Eagle device supports Javabased management and monitoring software called ChoiceView that runs on any network-attached PC. It can verify and track a variety of parameters that can be used to help customers determine whether or not service providers are living up to SLAs for either frame

See Quick Eagle, page 16

16 Net workWorld 2/11/02 Infrastructure www.nwfusion.com

windows Dave Kearns



"As new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed, and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also and keep pace with the times."

— Thomas Jefferson

Whenever I'm in Washington, D.C., I try to stop by the Jefferson Memorial. It's one of the most peaceful and tranquil places in that hub of world civilization. Last month I took a couple of hours out of the ComNet Expo to wander over to see Mr. Jefferson, and noticed the above quotation chiseled alongside the more

Keeping up with the times

famous passages from the Declaration of Independence.

Jefferson was speaking of changes in laws and civilizations, but his thoughts are adaptable to our rapidly changing electronic world. In particular, I'd ask my peers — those who have been involved with computers since the late '60s or early '70s — to realize that the small, closed world we knew as the Internet has gone mainstream, changed and moved on. We'd better move along with it.

For example, consider the venerable e-mailing list. You know, those associations of like-minded people, people with the same hobby or people in a particular profession (such as network managers) — even people in an extended family, a neighborhood or a school. There are tens of thousands of mailing lists circulating anywhere from one or two messages per year to those with dozens — even hun-

dreds — every day.

On many of those lists, not a week goes by without some old graybeard denouncing a new member of the list for using something other than pure, text format to post a message. You see, to these people it's a mortal sin to use HTML mail, a venial sin to use Rich Text Format, and a step on the road to Hades if you use MIME. We're told it's a security issue, but it's hinted that it's an anti-Microsoft issue (evidently that's a good thing). And we're still being told its because some members of the list use e-mail readers that can only handle text.

Would you be willing to give up color TV because some people only have black-and-white models? Should markets carry fully only cooked foods because raw foods can harbor germs?

The world is always changing, the electronic world is constantly changing. Those who can't keep up with the changes, those

who don't adapt, will be left behind.

Kearns, a former network administrator, is a freelance writer and consultant in Silicon Valley. He can be reached at wired@vquill.com.

No of the trees

ComNet is a show for serious hardware junkies, which doesn't include me. Outside of Comnet, the best thing I saw was my new granddaughter (Hi Gillian!), who arrived on the scene midconference. Real life, it's often more fun than the virtual kind — try it out!

Dell hooks up with Cray to offer server clustering

■ BY ASHLEE VANCE

Dell is not the first company that comes to mind when talking about supercomputers, but last week the company launched a new server-clustering program and a partnership with Cray to strengthen its position among vendors selling large groups of networked computers.

IBM, Hewlett-Packard and Silicon Graphics top the sales charts as the world's leading supercomputer companies, selling hundreds of servers to organizations that need to pore through large amounts of data and perform complex calculations. A number of industries from the telecom sector to aerospace pay millions to harness the power of these tightly linked computers.

The company plans to offer new precertified configurations of servers in an effort to beef up its share of the high-performance market. It has started selling groups of eight, 16,32 and 64 PowerEdge servers that can be clustered to work as one system. In addition, Cray, one of the traditional leaders in the supercomputer market, will offer users software and services for Dell servers, as part of a separate OEM agreement. An eight-server cluster from Dell will start at \$75,000.

Dell has partnered with MPI Software Technology and Paralogic for the middle-ware and clustering software that will run on its systems. With the help of these two partners, Dell is targeting customers looking to set up clusters of 128 servers and fewer. The packages from Cray are aimed at clusters with more than 128 servers, says Karl Chen, director of enterprise software with Dell.

One customer already running a large cluster says Dell was able to move up from

its roots on the low end and handle setting up a more complex network well.

Sandia National Labs in Albuquerque, N.M., has linked 128 Dell workstations as part of a project to simulate how nuclear weapons behave in the real world, says Milt Clauser, project leader for the visualization cluster at Sandia. The company used some homemade software along with other vendors' applications to run the cluster.

While Dell may not have a dominant position in high-end computing, the company is well known for low-cost hardware, and this was a driving factor in Clauser's decision to go with the company.

"Price was a major consideration," Clauser says.

For larger clusters of computers, one analyst says the partnership with Cray will be key for Dell's efforts to be seen as a viable high-performance computing choice.

"I think if Dell were to get into this space on their own, they would fall flat on their face," says Tom Manter, research director at Aberdeen Group. "They realize that partnering with a company with name recognition will open doors for them."

Even with Cray's software on its side, Dell likely will need a few years before it secures a prominent place in the high-end computing market, Manter says.

It may take Dell some time to solidify its spot with clustered computers, but the company sees supercomputing and clustering as keys to pushing its hardware further, Chen says. The company says its low-cost hardware will give it an advantage over rivals such as IBM and Sun.

Vance is a correspondent with the IDG News Service's Boston bureau.

Quick Eagle

continued from page 15

relay or IP services. The device supports the standard Frame Relay Forum set of parameters to measure the quality of frame relay services.

ChoiceView can track the top users of a link, status of the link and how much of it is being used. This information can be used to plan for future bandwidth needs.

ChoiceView software can also be used

to configure 4230 access platforms from the PC running the software.

One drawback is that the software doesn't let users prioritize traffic. Quick Eagle has such traffic-shaping on its drawing board, but there is no set time for when that capability will be ready, says Alan Rice, Quick Eagle's vice president of marketing.

Access Platform is available now. Upgrading it to turn on the second T-1 port costs \$700 extra.

www.quickeagle.com

Siemens

continued from page 15

The bank branches are not integrated into Citizens' centralized voice mail system, and workers can't transfer calls among branches or dial other offices without going to an outside line.

Up to 100,000 IP and/or circuitswitched phone users can be supported by clustering HiPath 3000 or HighPath 4000 boxes together. Up to 15 HiPath 3000 and 64 HiPath 4000 boxes can link in a cluster, which can be managed as a single system. Additions, moves and changes can be made to a cluster through a Web application that synchronizes the clustered servers and replicates data to

More online!

Read how Cisco is planning an effort to enable service providers to offer new classes of VPN and voice-over-IP services.

DocFinder: 8044

all nodes.

Siemens also debuted a digital phone last week with the optiPoint 500 handset. The phone looks the same as Siemens' IP phone, the optiPoint 500, providing a common interface for IP and digital phone users. The new phone also comes with two Universal Serial Bus ports that can connect to a PC for computer telephony applications. An adapter is also available for connecting the phone to an Ethernet/IP connection. Software and firmware on the phones can also be configured in batches of up to 200 with a software Phone Manager application included with either HighPath system software.

The new HiPath systems will compete with IP PBXs such as the Cisco Call-Manager, 3Com's NBX LAN telephony platform and similar IP PBX products from Nortel, Avaya and Alcatel. Cisco and 3Com were first and second in IP line shipments for midsize to large companies' telephony systems in the third quarter of 2001, according to Phillips Infotech, while Siemens held only 1% market share.

The optiPoint 500 phones are available starting at \$140 per set. The HiPath 3000 and 4000, both available now, cost between \$400 and \$600 per user, depending on number of users and configuration. ■

Enterprise DO Gatio INTRANETS MESSAGING/GROUPWARE ■ NETWORK MANAGEMENT ■ DIRECTORIES

Users find hosted CRM apps hit bull's eye

BY ANN BEDNARZ

Thriftiness and caution are leading businesses of all sizes to choose hosted customer relationship management services over more traditional CRM applications, even if the features available in a hosted service are less robust than those of a licensed CRM application suite.

CRM vendors that operate as application

■ Zone Labs last week unveiled a package aimed at helping users administer enterprisewide security products. Integrity is a client/server system that places an agent on each managed desktop in a company. The agents offer the ability to block inbound connection attempts from the Internet, limit the applications that can initiate an Internet connection, and quarantine e-mail that may carry viruses or worms. The server component runs on Windows 2000 servers, while the agent runs on Windows 95/ 98/NT/ME/XP. One server can manage up to 2,000 desktops simultaneously, the company says. Integrity manages only Zone Labs' firewalls and the Cisco VPN 3000 Concentrator series of VPN appliances, but the company says in the future it will add the ability to work with other security products, such as antivirus software. Integrity is available now for \$80 per user, with one server license included with the purchase. www.zonelabs.com

■ Polivec has announced the second version of its network security policy tool, Polivec Builder 2.0. The tool lets administrators set best-practices policies on password usage and access to Windows or Solaris operating systems that can be checked remotely via the tool's scanner. Version 2.0 starts at \$3,000 and includes "Best Practices" templates for the federal healthcare mandate, HIPAA. Future versions are expected to include support for Linux, Novell NetWare, AIX, OS/400 and HP-UX. www.polivec.com

service providers (ASP), such as Salesforce.com, UpShot and Salesnet, are pitching fast rollouts and \$50 to \$125 per-user, per-month subscription fees. The message is resonating with companies wary of committing to an 18-month CRM rollout with a \$1 million-plus price tag.

During a year that was dismal on many IT fronts, hosted CRM services prospered. Revenue for CRM operations services consisting primarily of application outsourcing services — in the U.S. grew roughly 80% in 2001 over year-earlier figures, says Jocelyn Young, program manager for CRM services research at IDC. She predicts the sector will sustain that growth rate through 2006.

Marc Benioff, Salesforce.com's CEO, is a self-described "evangelist for the end of software." His company increased sales 300% in 2001 and today has 3,300 companies using its CRM services. According to a Morgan Stanley survey of 10,491 customers, Salesforce.com (27% of market share) trailed only Siebel Systems (36%) in number of customers for the first half of 2001.

"Siebel should be shaking in their boots. They don't realize how many customers they've lost," says Benioff, who, like rival CEO Tom Siebel, is an Oracle expatriate.

Keith Raffel, chairman of UpShot, says the economy is a factor in the popularity of hosted CRM services. "Companies don't have time or money," Raffel says. "Fast deployment becomes very important."

Cost and speed of implementation led the North American division of Bohler-

Uddeholm to select Salesforce.com's online CRM service over software from Siebel and Pivotal. Mark Appleton, marketing support manager at the steel supplier, says the company wanted to speed communication

between its 22 outside sales representatives and the internal employees making inventory decisions.

Before Salesforce.com, sales staff at Bohler-Uddeholm filed weekly progress reports by fax. Every time someone left, the company struggled to get customer information that resided with the employee, Appleton says. With Salesforce.com, information is consistent and immediately accessible. Productivity has increased 10%.



66Siebel should be shaking in their boots. They don't realize how many customers they've lost. 77

Marc Benioff CEO. Salesforce.com

For large companies, the appeal of hosted CRM applications is convenience and time to market. "ASPs are the procrastinator's solution, especially if the IT organization is involved in other things," says Erin Kinikin, vice president and research leader at Giga Information Group.

But hosted services are not necessarily a long-term fix. For large companies, going the hosted route can be the equivalent of training wheels, Kinikin says. "A number of these companies expect that they may move that functionality in-house when they have the time and resources," she says.

Indeed, Bohler-Uddeholm in the future will migrate to SAP's CRM suite — although not because the company is unhappy with Salesforce.com, Appleton says. Rather, it's a corporate decision. Globally, the \$1.3 bilservices. For enterprisewide CRM, sales, marketing and customer service applications need to exchange information among themselves as well as with backend systems such as inventory and order management. "What we've learned is that the pieces have to be interdependent to be successful," IDC's Young says.

For this reason, CRM by ASP is most appropriate for companies that want only one piece of CRM — such as a salesforce automation application that doesn't have to be fed into and out of marketing systems, Young says.

Kinikin agrees. "The more broadly the company is looking at CRM, the more advantages there are to implementing inhouse," she says.

While vendors say their hosted applications can be integrated with a company's back-end systems — Salesforce.com and UpShot, for example, include XML-based APIs for exchanging data with other applications — analysts question the logic of doing so.

True enterprise integration "would mean getting IT involved," Kinikin says. "And one of the biggest reasons for going with an ASP is because IT either can't or won't get involved."

The ASP appeal has not gone unnoticed by players in the traditional CRM game many of which have tried subscription models with mixed results. Siebel abandoned its hosted offering, Sales.com, last year. Conversely, PeopleSoft boosted its eCenter hosted services this month, part-

> nering with Hewlett-Packard for infrastructure management.

> Oracle retains its Oracle.com hosted services, but has been disappointed by customer interest. Still, Oracle says it expects half of its users to move to the

ASP model within five years.

RightNow Technologies, which offers hosted and locally deployed versions of its CRM software, suggests the way an application is designed determines its hostability. RightNow and other CRM service providers design software to be deployed over the Internet, which differentiates it from ASPs of the past that tried to fit client/server software into an ASP model.

££Companies don't have time or money. Fast deployment becomes very important. ""

Keith Raffel Chairman, UpShot

lion company is upgrading to a new version of SAP for its inventory and order management, and the deal includes SAP's CRM suite. The North American division will have to comply, but that upgrade is probably two years away from completion, Appleton says. In the meantime, Salesforce .com provides a comprehensive, low-cost fix to an immediate problem, he says.

Application integration is also a concern for companies considering online CRM



2/11/02

Crustacean security

hree of *Network World's* four cover stories on Jan. 21 were about security. The fourth mentioned security in the second paragraph. Two of the stories focused on the difficulties with using the Internet Engineering Task

Force's IP Security technology, but I seem to detect a common, and to me, dangerous thread hidden under some of the comments in the stories.

The first story that caught my eye had the headline "Debate flares over IP stor-

age security" (see www.nwfusion.com, DocFinder: 8034). The story was about the cost in performance and dollars of including encryption in storage devices and quoted people who think there are other ways to get a secure system. The major suggestion here is the same as that implied in one of the other cover stories on "easier VPNs": that you can wall off some part of the network with a firewall of one kind or another and only protect communications outside of the firewall. Far too much of the security thinking in the corporate world is based on this crustacean model — hard on the outside, and soft and vulnerable

There are three basic problems with the crustacean security model: people, penetration and perfection. Most studies over the years have shown that many—if not most—violations of network or computer security have been perpetrated or assisted by people inside the organization with legitimate access to the network. Specifically, firewalls do not protect against the people already inside the wall.

In addition, methods all too frequently have been set up to penetrate or bypass the firewall for what seem like legitimate reasons, such as installing a dial-up modem to access a special server from home. Finally, unless the firewall software is perfect and perfectly set up, holes will be found. Too often this means the corporate jewels are lying around for the picking.

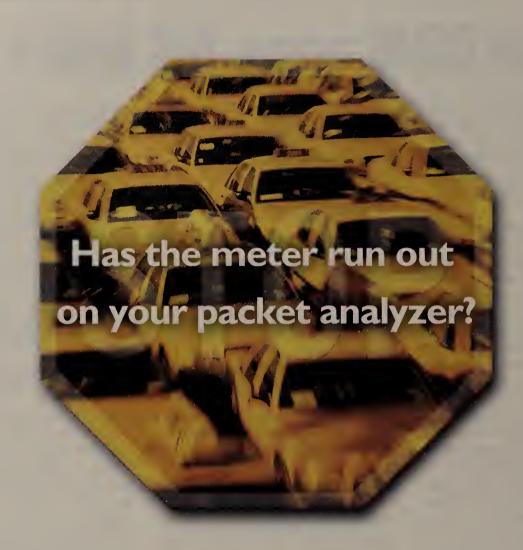
But the case of IP-based storage points out a somewhat different issue. *Network World's* story on this topic rightly points out that security has not been a real concern in Fibre Channel-based storage networks because they are physically separate networks with few hosts on them. Some people think IP-based storage can be constrained in the same way. That is, at best, wishful thinking.

One of the basic results of putting an application on IP is that you are no longer restricted as to where it can be used. Fibre Channel-attached storage can be used only on the local Fibre Channel network, but an IP-attached storage device can, and will be, used from anywhere in the IP network world. Putting storage on IP means that there is no way for a storage device to know what type of environment it is running in, and so it has to be ready to deal with the case of a network with open access from the Internet (i.e., you need full security). If you don't want to deal with that reality then you should stick to Fibre Channel.

Disclaimer: Reality? Harvard?

In any case, the above are my own observations.

Bradner is a consultant with Harvard University's University Information Systems. He can be reached at sob@sobco



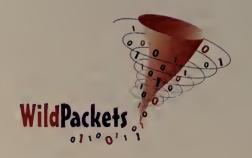
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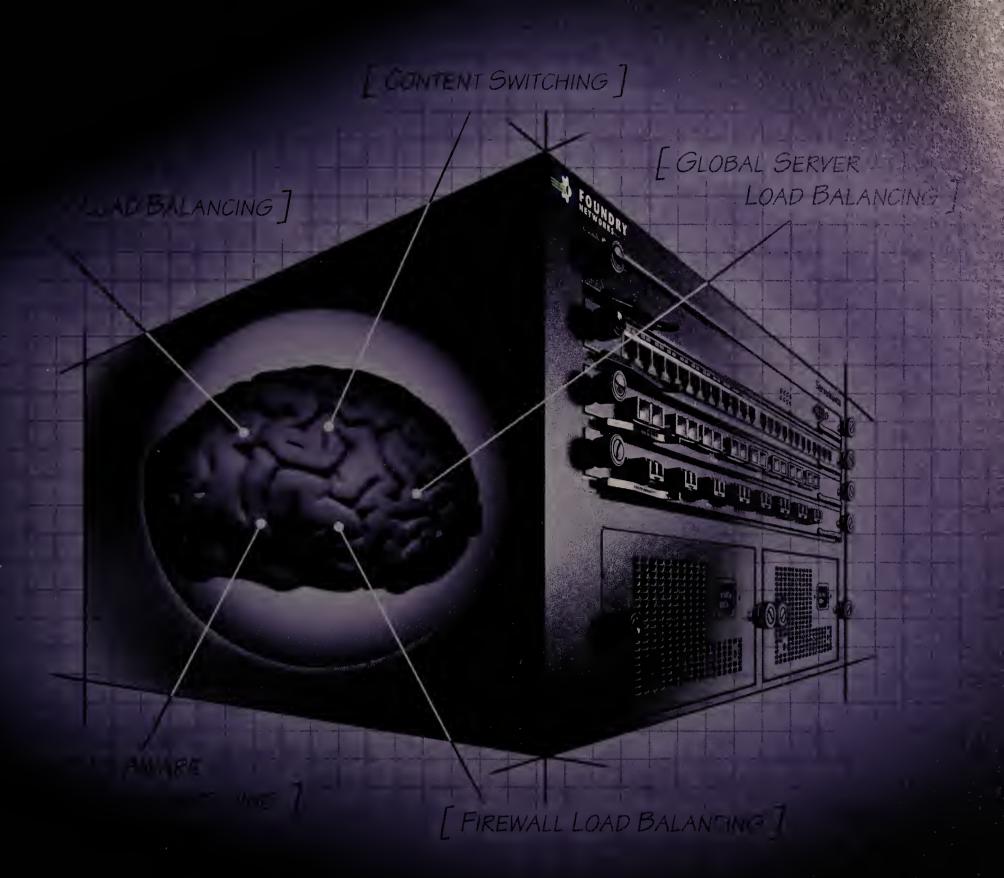
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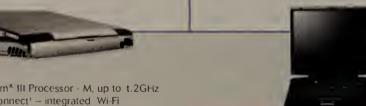
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Not part of the cable and DSL boom?

If you're out of range, alternative broadband technologies offer a small ray of hope.

BY MICHAEL MARTIN

High-speed cable and DSL connections have been a godsend to small office/home office networks and teleworkers across the U.S., but unfortunately not everyone has access to a cable or DSL connection.

A variety of wireless alternatives exist for the cable and DSL-deprived, but their availability is spotty, and the technology behind the alternatives is often less proven than the relatively new cable and DSL products.

However, early last year, it seemed as if fixed wireless might provide a palatable alternative to cable and DSL in price and performance. In residential areas, fixed wireless works by transmitting data at rates similar to cable and DSL between a dish located at a subscriber's home and a nearby transmission tower. In multitenant buildings, service providers position transmission dishes on

the tops of buildings and connected tenants to the dish through wires.

With the backing of Sprint, AT&T and WorldCom, as well as many smaller regional providers, the future of fixed wireless looked bright. But late last year, those big names announced they were scaling back their plans, and some smaller providers have run into financial difficulty.

Another wireless method providers are using is the 802.11b wireless LAN standard. So far, providers such as Wayport and MobileStar have focused on two markets for 802.11b as a broadband tool.

The first is the multitenant building. "If you have a large building it makes sense to get a high-speed land line in there and then connect the tenants to the Internet through 802.11b devices," says Joe Laszlo, an analyst with Jupiter Media Metrix.

The second area 802.11b providers are targeting is the mobile user market, through deployments in places such as airport lounges and coffee houses.

Groups such as the Bay Area Wireless User Group in San Francisco and NYCwireless in New York are also setting up open 802.11b networks that can be used by the public to get mobile Internet access and bring broadband connections to areas that might not otherwise gain fast access.

One drawback is that 802.11b transmissions can be easily intercepted and should be encrypted for security.

The 802.11b standard isn't the only mobile wireless broadband access method available. Providers can also use radio technology to provide service to customers on the move.

The now bankrupt Metricom used a microcellular data network in the unlicensed bandwidth spectrum. Using its Ricochet service, subscribers get speeds of 128K to 175K bit/sec, through a desktop modem or PC modem card.

Aerie Networks purchased the assets of bankrupt Metricom last November and is betting that Ricochet can be a success. Aerie hopes to restart Ricochet service in several markets this year, at about half of what Ricochet originally cost, putting it in line with cable and DSL pricing.

"The service could compete with cable or DSL, or it could just be a complement," says Emilie Kelly, Aerie's senior vice president of marketing.

For broadband seekers in rural locales, satellite service from a provider is an option. There are several drawbacks to satellite service, though. For starters, it's expensive — about \$400 in initial hardware costs, \$200 for installation and a monthly fee starting at \$60 per month.

Satellite service can provide cable- and DSL-like speeds, but there is more latency because the data has to be bounced up to a satellite and then back down to Earth.

The satellite signal can also be affected by poor weather, a badly aligned satellite dish on the customer side, or by interference from other wireless signals. Because of the latency, satellite broadband won't work well for applications that require a constant connection.

"But it's still better than dial-up," Laszlo notes.

GigaFast switch is a small wonder

■ BY MIKE AVERY

We assumed there wasn't anything new to report in the world of 10/100M bit/sec switches. However, GigaFast EZ500-S proved us wrong. The new device is tiny and inexpensive, and its autouplink feature lets you connect a variety of devices using one cable.

The EZ500-S is a five-port 10/100 Ethernet switch that's smaller than most computer mice, and includes wall anchors for easy mounting. Our only complaint is that the power supply is larger than the device —

its "brick on a leash" design plugs directly into the wall. We would prefer the power supply have a cord on each end so it could plug into a power strip.

Although the power supply is on the heavy side, a tiny switch like this could be invaluable to road warriors. Sales teams often need to have hectic presentation session in hotel rooms or any available space. The switch makes it easy for the team to hook up their computers and share the latest version of a presentation, sales figures and the like. Its rugged metal case will survive the abuse, and its low cost (\$25 to \$35) means misplacing the switch won't be a big deal.

Consultants who work on customer sites can use the switch to set up their own ad



The EZ500-S's size makes it invaluable to road warriors.

hoc network. Because every port can act as an automatic uplink port, you can connect a variety of devices using one cable.

In testing, we connected devices in every combination — switch to switch, PC to PC, PC to cable modem, to gateway router using Category-5 and crossover cables, and everything worked. We even toggled the switch, and within a second, the EZ500-S recognized the change, reconfigured its port and restored the connection. Whether you manage a small office or work on the road, the EZ500-S deserves a place on your network.



Take a closer look at our scoring of the GigaFast EZ500-S including the pros, cons, price and how we arrived at the total score of 4.8

DocFinder: 8042

- BellSouth recently announced it would offer SonicWall's SOHO3 firewall to its FastAccess DSL business customers. The SOHO3 firewall device includes antivirus and contentfiltering software, and can support additional services such as network antivirus, ASIC-based VPN and authentication using digital certificates. Pricing has yet to be announced.www.fastaccess.com; www.sonicwall.com
- Aimed at securing the distributed workforce, Zone Labs has announced Zone Labs Integrity, a centrally managed firewall that protects all PCs on a network — on-site and remote - from hackers and malicious code. Integrity includes Webbased administration and policy management, and works with a network's existing infrastructure. Cooperative Enforcement technology lets only endpoint PCs that follow appropriate firewall policy access the network. Pricing is about \$80 per user license. www.zonelabs.com

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THE INTERNET ■ EXTRANETS ■ INTEREXCHANGES AND LOCAL CARRIERS

Outsourcers taking up the ASP mantle

BY JENNIFER MEARS

Large outsourcers and systems integrators have always tiptoed around the application service provider market, preferring to forge relationships that kept them behind the scenes. However, recent news from EDS that it is partnering with messaging ASP Mi8 marks a significant shift in this pattern.

That's good news for companies that have been wary of using an ASP because of questions about financial viability and longevity. With established outsourcers backing a deal, customers can feel more secure. In addition, companies benefit from outsourcers' professional services and expertise, on top of hosted

■ Cable & Wireless' acquisition of Exodus is a done deal. The transaction, valued at \$750 million, was announced in November after Exodus filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Cable & Wireless is buying the Exodus brand name, intellectual property, and most of its data center and customer assets. The service provider plans to incorporate its Exodus Web hosting assets with its Digital Island Web hosting business, which Cable & Wireless acquired last year. Bill Austin, who was most recently chief financial officer at Exodus, will head the combined business. www.cableandwireless.com

■ Communications provider **Net**work Plus, which serves about 75,000 customers in the Northeast and Southeast, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last week. Network Plus, pased in Randolph, Mass., provides local, long-distance and high-speed data services to small and midsize businesses. The company is trying to secure debtor-in-possession financing, which would allow it to continue operating in the short term. In the long-term, the company will seek a buyer, or try to reach an agreement with its lenders. www.np1.com

applications, from a single source.

EDS recently announced it would resell Mi8's hosted Microsoft Exchange service and plans to codevelop and codeploy additional applications, such as virtual workspaces. The partnership is interesting because EDS is taking a frontline position in delivering an ASP service to its customers, a role outsourcers have avoided.

IBM has had its ASP Prime (now xSP Prime) program since 1999, providing technical support and consulting services to independent software vendors that want to deliver wares over the Internet. KPMG joined Qwest in 1999 to launch ASP Qwest Cyber Solutions, eventually pulling out of the venture when the ASP market began to crumble. But in both cases, it was the ASP that handled customer accounts. Back-end support was the system integra-

"This is a first step toward the broader acceptance of partnerships and relationships between ASPs and myriad system integrators and services companies," Karen Moser, an analyst with IDC, says of the EDS-Mi8 relationship. "This is a bellwether for what's going to happen in the industry."

Analysts also have been skeptical about the future of ASPs. Dozens have gone out of business since the market emerged in the late '90s. In the past few months, ASP pioneers such as Future-Link and Breakaway Solutions have closed, and USinternetworking filed for

Software as a service

EDS is the first outsourcer to cobrand an ASP service, but outsourcers have been supporting ASPs for some time:

- IBM launched its ASP Prime Program in 1999 to provide infrastructure support for independent software vendors entering the ASP market.
- KPMG joined Owest in 1999 to launch ASP Owest Cyber Solutions, but pulled financial support in early 2001.
- In April 2000 Ernst & Young partnered with ASP Corio.
- Accenture partnered with ASP aggregator Jamcracker in the fall of 2000.
- Hewlett-Packard last month partnered with PeopleSoft to provide infra-structure and services support for its eCenter ASP service.

bankruptcy protection. At the same time, though, analysts say software as a service is here to stay. The question is who will be delivering the applications.

Gartner analyst Ben Pring predicted in a recent report that software vendors, telecom suppliers and outsourcing companies

will "embrace the ASP model and utilize it as just another offering in their portfolio one that will, over the course of the next five years, come to represent between onequarter and one-third of their revenue."

How many pure ASPs will be left? "Few," Pring says. "Very few."

That means companies can expect more partnerships and acquisitions among ASPs and outsourcing companies, analysts say, as well as the development of homegrown ASP services. IBM, for example, points to its new pay-as-you-go hosted offerings as ASP services.

Tim Morton, president of EDS E-Solutions, U.S. and Latin America, says more customers are demanding hosted applications, especially messaging and collaboration. EDS announced its partnership with Mi8 with a customer, Internal Association of Athletics Federations, already in hand, and claims several more are "in the pipeline."

Laurel McElreath, service line director for messaging and collaboration at EDS, says the firm has offered hosted applications in the past but that the partnership with Mi8 takes that "to a different level." Customers aren't looking for huge outsourcing packages, she says. The need is for a single service that can be implemented and deployed quickly.

"The idea was to partner with someone who could deliver a more cost-effective [service] to our clients, rather than investing in and developing the technology inhouse," McElreath says.

Sprint preps frame service with IP twist

Offering to make debut about two years after rival offerings.

■ BY DENISE PAPPALARDO

KANSAS CITY, KAN. — Sprint is readying a service designed to better handle frame relay customers' growing IP traffic loads.

Sprint's IP Intelligent Frame Relay service will support fully meshed networks that provide the flexibility of public IP networks, but without the cost of setting up dedicated permanent virtual cir-

cuits (PVC) between each site. The service will require customers to dedicate PVCs between their sites and Sprint's frame network.

The service is Sprint's answer to AT&T's IP-Enabled Frame Relay and WorldCom's Private IP services, which have been out for several years. Sprint says its delay with an IPenabled frame offering stems from the company's focus on its now-defunct Integrated

On demand Network (ION) platform. Sprint expected ION to be the converged service for its business and consumer customers.

"AT&T and WorldCom have proven that customers want IPenabled frame services, and Sprint is now listening to its customers," says Michael Suby, an analyst with Stratecast Partners.

Unlike AT&T and WorldCom, Sprint is bypassing Multi-protocol Label Switching technology and using virtual routing capabili-

> ties on Nortel Passport frame relay switches at the network edge to support its IP-enabled frame offering. Suby says it's too soon to say whether Sprint's architecture will provide any competitive advantage.

> Sprint says users will pay the same port fees as traditional frame customers, but PVC rates will be higher.



More online!

Limitations of IP-enabled frame relay. Also, why MPLS is no longer the darling of IP and ATM vendors.

DocFinder: 8041

EYE ON THE CARRIERS Johna Till Johnson



very other week, it seems a new service provider goes belly up. The latest casualty (as of this writing) is Global Crossing, which is undergoing intensive reorganization and restructuring under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. But this company is hardly alone in its trou-

Virtually every major service provider in the world — including the blue-chip interexchange carriers — has 'fessed up to facing serious challenges.

According to Wall Street, this is the classic economic evolution caused by a predictable boom-and-bust cycle, like those of the automotive and utility industries in the last century.

In the telephone company market, deregulation drove down margins at the same time that the Internet bubble forced carriers to build out excess capacity. As a result,

Why Wall Street's got the carriers wrong

most service providers are overextended and cash-poor — prime targets for mergers and acquisitions.

After the dust settles, the telco market will consist of a few global giants that dominate the market for decades (think Detroit's Big Three auto manufacturers) and a handful of "boutique" players.

Given the rapid consolidation and industry churn, what's a network executive to do?

If you believe Wall Street, the answer would appear to be to take the safe route. Pick the largest telcos with the deepest pockets and greatest cash reserves, and sign long-term deals with them — they're the most likely survivors. Steer clear of radical upstarts with crazy technologies (they'll disappear eventually).

Here's the deal, and I'll say this as a humble techie who slept through economics class: Wall Street has got this one wrong. OK not 100% wrong, just incomplete.

Here's what the wizards of Wall Street are missing: Telco services, unlike cars or energy, change and evolve. Market forces will force this change to continue (even accelerate). And that evolution will prevent the service provider industry from settling into the sleepy stasis that Wall

Here's what the wizards of Wall Street are missing: Telco services, unlike cars or energy, change and evolve.

Street is predicting.

Think about it. Electric power hasn't changed appreciably since 1904. And cars still get you from Point A to Point B (just faster and more comfortably). But "telco services" now encompass e-mail, voice mail, broadband data, videoconferencing, and Internet access (not to mention wireless voice and data).

And as the pace of globalization increases and competition gets fiercer, the use of such services will be an increasingly valuable advantage for companies. Users will demand — and in a free market, will get — new services and devices, not just variations on the same old theme.

But from whom? Big companies are great

at standardization and economies of scale. What they're not so good at is innovation. Therefore, by definition, smaller companies will succeed in offering new services disrupting the "classic" economic model of a handful of big, sleepy companies dominating the landscape.

The bottom line is if your company views technology as a competitive differentiator, you can't afford to take a totally safe route. Invest some of your telecom dollars in start-up companies offering truly innovative services. You may not be safe, but you won't be sorry.

Johnson is senior vice president and CTO for Greenwich Technology Partners, a network consulting and engineering firm. She can be reached at johna@greenwich tech.com.

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■ NetPlane Systems said it is now shipping a "high-availability" implementation of the Open Shortest Path First routing protocol. The new OSPF code product is part of NetPlane's OPTIRoute IP routing software for carrier-class network equipment. Four OEMs have purchased the new release for equipment they are developing, ranging from core routers and cable modem termination systems, to next-generation optical switches, NetPlane says. OPTIRoute with high-availability OSPF is designed to work in centralized and distributed edge and core environments. It supports multiple levels of redundancy, synchronization between primary and back-up modes, virtual routing and Multi-protocol Label Switching/ Generalized MPLS integration, Net-Plane says. Pricing for OPTIRoute OSPF begins at \$80,000 with OSPF high-availability offered as a separate purchasable option. www.net plane.com

Lucent announced that Ntera, an Internet telephony service provider in Miami, will use Lucent's IP service nodes to deliver prepaid calling and least-cost routing to its worldwide customers. Ntera is the first customer to install in a global network Lucent's EXS Converged Services Platform, an IPenhanced service node that supports the deployment of voice and data services in circuit, packet and converged networks.

Ntera's parent, Radiant Holdings, has deployed more than 100,000 ports of Lucent EXS systems handling hundreds of millions of minutes of traffic per month — in Miami, and will be installing the sys tems throughout its worldwide network. Ntera plans to employ Converged Services Platform in a programmable server environment, and use it as a tandem switch and Signaling System 7 signaling and media gateway for its entire network. www.lucent.com

Tracking traffic for trends

Avian Communications looks to generate more revenue for wireless operators.

■ BY TERRI GIMPELSON

MARLBOROUGH, MASS. — A start-up emerged from stealth mode last week with a product and suite of services designed to generate more revenue for wireless operators by tracking calls over the Internet.

Avian Communications is an 18-monthold Massachusetts company headed by Jules Meunier, former president of Nortel's wireless networks division and a 22-year veteran of the company.

Avian's product is designed to let operators increase average revenue per user for packet-based services by monitoring traffic and network usage. Avian also operates monitoring services for operators so they can bill content providers for network

The device is called a mobile service switching point (MSSP). It sits in the path of a data stream, between the Internet and the mobile wireless data network's Gateway General Packet Radio Service Support Node, and records traffic trends by inspecting each packet in real-time for content.

When operators and content providers agree on which calls a content provider will pay the operator for — for example, toll-free numbers or URLs — the Avian MSSP is configured to recognize and flag those calls. MSSP attaches a timer to flagged traffic, which monitors activity.

The traffic is then inserted back into the data stream and forwarded to the Internet. Unflagged traffic passes through the MSSP box to the Internet.

Operators purchase and install MSSP, and hire Avian as a traffic monitoring "middleman" between operators and content providers. One such monitoring service Avian offers is Packet 800 intelligent mobile service.

With Packet 800 service, MSSP inspects transactions made between an end user and a company such as an online florist. The MSSP box forwards the information to the network operator, which then reverse bills the online florist for network usage.

"We found out that companies prefer to do online business vs. phone business because it generates more revenue for them," Meunier says. "They've found it's easier to make sales if people can see the flowers they're buying and see all the different services the company has to offer. It makes for a much richer transaction."

Meunier says end users have shied away

from making these types of transactions from mobile devices because of uncertainty in pricing.

"This allows content providers to say they will be the ones to pay for the transactions instead of the end users, and it gives the operator the ability to inject themselves into the network and charge for such a

would not be able to monitor where calls originate and where they terminate.

"This opens the door to so many other types of services," Meunier says. "Operators can now think of different ways to bundle those services where today they can't even observe their data traffic."

But analysts note the company may not be unique. They will compete against other young wireless equipment companies, such as Watercove, Starent and Tahoe.

Another challenge for Avian is in marketing clarity, analysts say.

"It's very difficult for Avian to explain what this product does," says Becky Diercks, director of wireless research for Cahners In-Stat. "They must craft a clear message before attempting to sell into the market. They should also consider developing relationships with other infrastructure providers to help them sell this product."

"Carriers are just now beginning to roll out their 2.5G and 3G services," she says. "How quickly they adopt Avian's technology will depend on how quickly they deploy and begin to roll out these new services."

Once they do, Avian says it can insert MSSP into the network without changing the network or slowing the data stream. MSSP works in GSM, Code Division Multiple Access and Universal Mobile Telecommunications System networks.

The company announced Meunier's hiring last week. He left Nortel last October after a management shake-up that saw Frank Dunn replace John Roth as Nortel CEO, and several other executives reassigned following a company reorganization. Before being named president of Nortel's wireless networks division, Meunier replaced Bill Hawe as CTO in February 2001 following Hawe's abrupt departure after cashing in 602,000 stock options worth \$18.4 million — three days before Nortel stock plummeted 33% on a quarterly warning (www.nwfusion.com, Doc-Finder: 8035).

Meunier replaces interim Avian CEO, Raj Alur. Alur is a member of the company's board of directors and a principal at St. Paul Venture Capital, one of Avian's

Avian did not disclose pricing for its products or services. The company says two carriers will begin trialing its product and services in March. Six others are under discussion.

Avian: www.aviancommunications.com

PROFILE: AVIAN

Location: Marlborough, Mass.

Founded: August 2000

Product: Mobile service switching point (MSSP).

Founders: Tom Hamilton, CTO; Jihad Boura, chief architect; John Ziegler, VP of software development.

Financing: \$22 million second round from St. Paul Venture Capital, Argo Global Capital, Nokia Venture Partners, Wasserstein Ventures and others.

Employees: 71

Fun fact: Avian traditionally initiates new employees at a weekly pizza lunch. New employees bring the beer and are rated by veteran employees on their selection.

thing," he says. "The consumer wins because he gets cheaper rates, content providers get more business and cheaper transaction costs, and operators get a different class of people to pay for their ser-

Meunier says similar partnerships can be made with online airline ticket vendors. He says the typical telephone service costs vendors about \$50 to process vs. \$10 for an online sale.

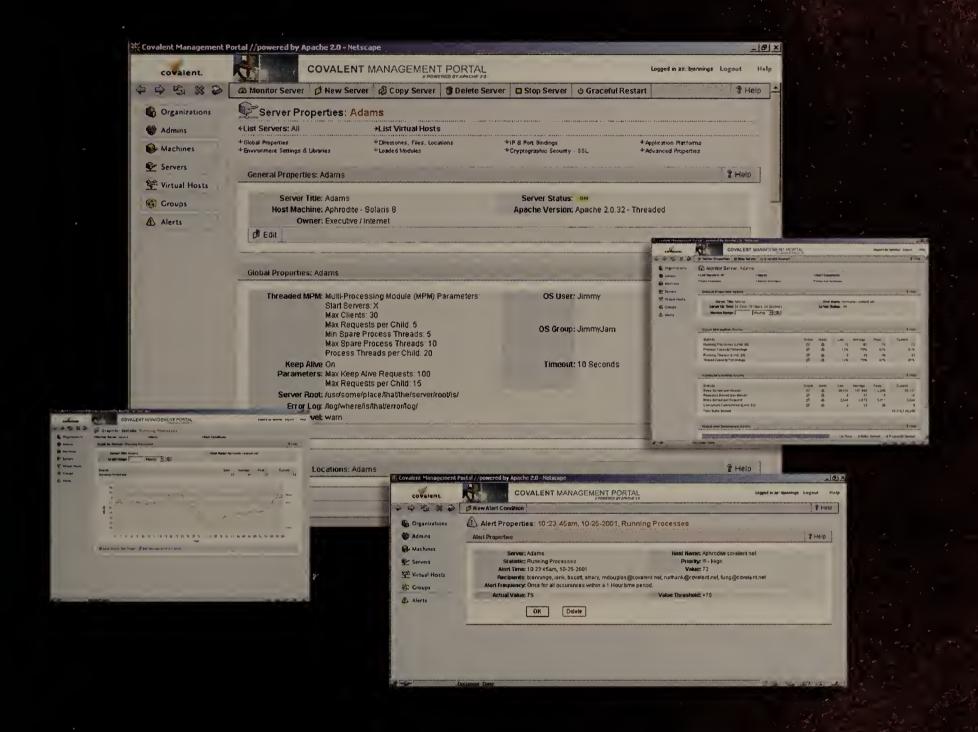
Other MSSP-based services Avian plans to

- PacketPrime 900 intelligent mobile service, which lets the operator bill a user for a service from a third party, such as 900-number services.
- Packet Mobile Virtual Network Operator, which lets a "virtual" operator — one without any network assets - discriminate between services and bill accordingly.
- Packet VPN, which lets operators customize packet services for VPN customers.

Avian says that with MSSP technology and Avian services, wireless operators FINALLY
THE ONE THING
APACHE
HAS BEEN MISSING
ALL ALONG

COVALENT ENTERPRISE READY SERVER

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AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE TECHNOLOGIES AND STANDARDS SHAPING YOUR NETWORK

Intelligent route control improves BGP

BY JEREMY JOHNSON

Internet capacity has increased significantly in the past two years, but the explosive growth in Internet traffic has been accompanied by bottlenecks, especially in the "middle mile" of Internet-based networks.

These bottlenecks originate from a variety of sources and cause application performance to degrade even to the point of service failure.

Intelligent route control promises to let companies control Internet routing while reducing network costs, effectively eliminating middle-mile congestion.

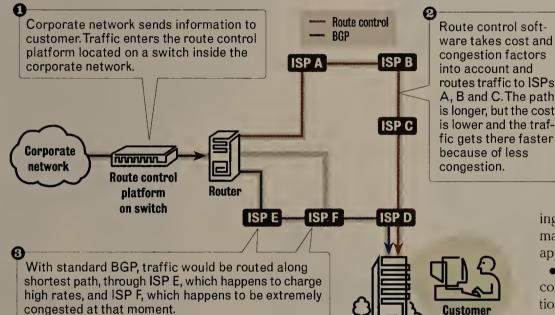
To combat problems that can occur within a particular service provider's network, corporations increasingly are using multiple service providers to obtain failover and proximity to end-user browsers. While this "multihoming" approach avoids reliance on a single carrier, it also introduces considerable management complexity.

The only tool available to manage routing information has been Border Gateway Protocol (BGP). BGP lets different networks advertise "reachability" information to one another for specific prefixes, and this information is distributed to routers across the Internet so each router knows which prefixes are reachable through the networks to which it is connected.

To reap the redundancy benefits inherent in multihoming and minimize the complexities of using BGP, intelligent route control products continuously monitor performance at thousands of individual destination prefixes across multiple paths — regardless of the application — and optimize routing to these prefixes. These products also let organizations establish route opti-

Intelligent route control

HOW IT WORKS
Intelligent route control software selects the most costeffective path for Internet traffic, as opposed to Border Gateway Protocol (BGP), which selects the shortest path.



mization policies that take into account application performance parameters and bandwidth usage/cost constraints.

Intelligent route control products typically perform three functions: calibration, navigation and representation or reporting.

The calibration function continuously monitors traffic flows to identify destination networks applications are sending traffic to, and uses active and/or passive monitoring techniques to measure traffic performance to these destination networks and measure traffic performance to these networks across each ISP. The performance statistics are forwarded to the navigation function used in making route optimization

decisions.

The navigation function uses statistics gathered during calibration to determine whether the user-defined performance (in terms of packet loss and latency) and transit cost policies are being met and makes route changes in near real time in accordance with these policies.

If it detects that performance to a specific destination over a low-cost provider has exceeded that destination's policy threshold, it examines alternate ISP links to find the least-cost path that meets both loss and latency performance requirements. The navigation function then redirects traffic over the new path, by issuing a standard

BGP route update to customer routers. Route changes are forwarded to the representation function for historical reporting.

The representation function uses the statistics and routing change logs gathered

> during calibration and navigation to provide reports on bandwidth usage/cost, traffic delivery performance and route change activity. This function also is used to provide access to user management and configuration functions.

> Companies that use intelligent route control experience three key benefits:

 Quality of service: Intelligent route control continuously monitors and routes traffic over high-perform-

ing paths, enabling predictable performance consistent with business-specific application requirements.

- Cost management: Intelligent route control allows definition and implementation of customer-defined bandwidth usage policies, which enables more cost-effective use of existing bandwidth. In addition, it provides corporations with complete visibility into traffic performance and usage on all service providers, giving them the data they need to perform ongoing provider selection and contract negotiation.
- Control: Intelligent route control gives network engineers the tools to implement routing policies that match business and application performance and cost objectives to Internet infrastructure usage. Furthermore, it provides information needed to proactively manage ongoing service-level agreements with providers.

Johnson is chief architect at netVmg. He can be reached at jeremy@netvmg.com.

Ask Dr. Internet By Steve Blass

Our remote site with an Internet connection is protected by a SonicWall Pro device. The users at the remote site cannot access the Secure Socket Layer-protected Outlook Web Access (OWA) page from behind the device. They can access normal Web pages and other SSL-protected sites just fine. We've disabled all the rules on the SonicWall to no effect. Also, the device is implementing network address translation, not one-to-one.

It does not sound like the SonicWall device is the problem because your remote users can use other SSL-protected Web sites without problems. Permission settings seem to be the most common OWA problems. Make sure you grant "access this computer from the network" and "log on locally" permissions to the user accounts using OWA from the remote site. The Web server account needs these rights too. Then verify that the Web server is configured to

allow anonymous logon using basic authentication. Your remote users need to run their browsers with JavaScript and cookies enabled You can find Outlook Web Access troubleshooting help at www.nwfusion.com, DocFinders: 8036, 8037, 8038 and 8039.

Blass is a network architect at Change@ Work in Houston. He can be reached at dr.internet@changeatwork.com.

New kWorld

2 11 02

GEARHEAD MISIDE THE RETWORK MACHINE Mark



his week, as spring is around the corner, we thought we'd do a little housekeeping. In our column "A good syncing feeling" (www.nwfusion .com, DocFinder: 8045), we discussed our unsatisfactory experience with Alohabob PC Relocator (www.aloha bob.com) and our excellent experience with PCsync from LapLink (www.lap link.com). Steven Butler wrote in this comment:

"I bought PC Relocator about three weeks ago in an attempt to transfer my programs, links, etc., to my new company laptop. Although 1 didn't experience total failure as you indicated you had, I did encounter some interesting behavior.

"I first attempted to transfer everything from my IBM desktop computer running Windows XP Professional to my new IBM Thinkpad laptop running Windows 2000 Pro. I had limited success, as only a few applications actually worked on the new laptop, but my favorites and recent files

Spring cleaning

seemed to have made the transition to the new system. I think there was a mention someplace that the best results occur transferring between PCs with the same operating system and application

"I then tried the product again on two PCs running the same operating system. This time the transfer went smoothly and everything seems to have been transferred successfully. In my opinion the product works well only where the source and target machines run the same operating system (at least where Windows 2000 is concerned)."

Butler included the log of the "interesting behavior," and a miserable read it was! PCsync's migration feature does a more practical job, but we'd really like to see a tool that could monitor installation of an application, determine which files and registry settings belonged to it and then let us handle the entire installation as an object so we could move it on and off our systems as a single . . . er, well, "thing." We think we may have found such a tool and when it is released, we promise that you will be the first people

Regarding the shorterlink.com service we talked about in "Pringles, satellites and shortening" (DocFinder: 8046), the

site's author, Hubert Seiwert, wrote: "I saw your article mentioning my site, shorter link.com. i have now made it check if a URL has already been added so it won't give out more than one ID per URL. You are right that there's a very simple script underlying the service, it's just two HTML pages (totaling 3K) with embedded Perl code. It seems to work OK, though..."

Finally, a note from Phillip Remaker regarding "Copping a spam" (DocFinder: 8047): "I love SpamCop. I am a paying member. I do not get responses but that is because abuse desks are overwhelmed. But I do get amateur spammers shut down, [such as the] ones that use the Geocities site, and I get their commissions canceled (Nextcard spams) and I get the professionals blacklisted (like prontomail/commtouch).

"I still get spam, but using tools like the Realtime Blackhole List (www.mailabuse.org), an ISP can stop a lot of spam before it gets to your mailbox. Those blacklists benefit from the experience developed by SpamCop. I used to manually report spam using abuse.net addresses (see www.abuse.net) but spammers are better and better at obscuring data, and SpamCop stays on top of it and roots out the real data, making reporting easy.

"I have also personally helped a number of people close third-party open relays (poorly administered machines exploited by spammers to hide their identities) using techniques at www.mail-abuse.org /tsi.l'd like to see more ISPs (especially big ISPs such as AOL, Netzero, Juno) allow personalized antispam filtering at the server side similar to the AWESOME system at www.ev1.net (everyone's Internet) where you can choose the blacklists of your inbound mail.

"Finally, I get a lot of 'chain letter' MLMs asking for money to be sent to real U.S. mail addresses. These constitute criminal mail fraud, and may be reported to the Postal Service at (DocFinder: 8048). Not sure if the Postal Service really deals with that, but I try. Haven't heard from it.

"Side note: Have you seen the new features from credit card companies (notably Discover) that allow you to generate merchant-specific credit card numbers? Discover calls it Deskshop, and it is pretty awesome, since if your card number is stolen from an Internet merchant, it is not useful at any other merchant!"

Thanks to the hundreds of readers who have written in since the New Year. If you haven't, it is about time! Your thoughts to gearhead@gibbs.

use. Using the roller bar

as a mouse takes some

practice, but after a

while becomes very comfortable. The

\$190 price tag is a

bit steep, but it may

be worth it for end

users with ergo-

nomic issues re-

lated to their use

of a traditional

mouse. Go to

www.contourde

sign.com to check

out the product.

Cool Tools Products that have graced the Cool Tools lab...

A roundup of the latest neat stuff By Keith Shaw

n the Cool Tools lab (about 2 feet away from my regular workstation) there are a number of new products that deserve the "cool" label, but writing about them individually would warrant a few extra pages in this book. Seeing as the publisher might not like that, here are quick takes on a few that have earned a Cool Tools thumbs up.

InFocus' LP-530 projector

Finally, the lab tested the InFocus LP-530 projector, a portable projector for our PowerPoint presentations that was extremely mobile and easy to set up. While not as lightweight as some other InFocus projectors, the LP-530 was still small enough for us to transport, and smaller than the big brick that we usually use. At \$6,000, it's still a bit pricey, but like the monitors, projectors have decreased in price (and size) considerably in the past few years. Go to www.infocus.com to see more projectors.

NEC MultiSync LCD 1550V flat-panel monitor

The NEC MultiSync LCD 1550V 15-inch flat-panel monitor has freed some space on my desk. However, following the axiom that "nature abhors a vacuum," papers, press kits, business cards and stacks of CD-ROMs now occupy the space where the bulkier monitor once sat.

Still, the flat-panel monitor wins style points for its ability to make my co-workers jealous, and it was very easy to set up. The monitor can swivel vertically to help reduce glare, and the picture quality is good, if not better, than my older monitor. At \$350 to \$400, the price may be low enough to warrant getting them for staff members who need an extra monitor on

The InFocus LP-530 was a good small projector for our traveling needs.

their desk. Just make sure they don't put more junk in the space created. Go to www.necmitsubishi. com for details.

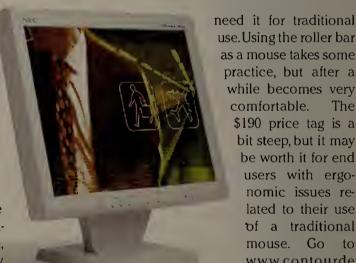
Contour Design's RollerMouse station

Because the Cool Tools lab is so close to my regular desk, the position of the mouse for the test computer is in an awkward place, causing me to stretch my arm farther than I should. So I was happy to get Contour Design's Roller-Mouse station, an ergonom-

ic tray/device that sits under the keyboard. The RollerMouse is a roller bar with several buttons and a scroll wheel located just under the space bar of

your keyboard, along with two gel pads for wrist support/comfort.

Used correctly, you can type with your fingers and mouse with your thumbs on the roller bar. The roller bar also lets you double-click by pushing down on the bar or by double-clicking on one of the buttons. There's also an additional PS/2 port on the device so you can plug in your old mouse in case you



The NEC MultiSync LCD 1550V is affordable enough to grace our desktops.

When not cleaning his cubicle, Shaw is senior reviews editor at Network World. Send Cool Tools items to kshaw@ nww.com.

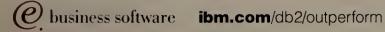


Contour Design's RollerMouse station gave us a new way of navigating.



THE CODERNAUTS WERE ON A SEARCH FOR A DATABASE THAT RUNS ON LINUX, UNIX AND WINDOWS 2000. THEY DISCOVERED:

CUSTOMERS KNOW IT, PARTNERS KNOW IT, BENCHMARKS PROVE IT





EDITORIAL John Dix

Don't miss the VON VoIP Showdown

omNet was quieter than usual but we still managed to get 400-plus people to *Network World's* VPN Showdown, hosted by Editorial Director John Gallant. And now we're gearing up for our next presidential-style debate.

The theme this time: "Is IP telephony ready for prime time?" And the venue is the Spring 2002 Voice on the Net (VON) show, which runs April 8-11 in the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle.

This VON conference — the 17th — is "focusing on the businesses, technologies and issues facing the VON industry today," with an emphasis on the interests of carriers and enterprise users.

We will zero in on the enterprise side of that equation, exploring the questions that swirl around the decision of when, where and if convergence makes sense.

I'll be joined on stage by Robert Smithers, president of Miercom, a testing firm that has put the industry's leading products through their paces as a member of Network World's Global Test Alliance.

And we hereby challenge these vendors to show up to participate: Cisco, Nortel, Avaya, Alcatel and Shoreline Communications. The first four are obvious choices because they're big-time players in the enterprise convergence business, but why Shoreline? We wanted a scrappy, smaller player with interesting technology — a distributed call control and voice applications architecture — to stir the pot.

We need to hear back from these vendors — who's in, who's out — by March 18.

Like all of our Showdowns, we'll divide the time roughly into thirds. In the first segment Smithers and I will target questions at specific vendors, then we'll give the vendors time to question each other (always enlightening), and finally we'll throw it open to questions from the audience.

These are some of the questions we're eager to have answered:

- Can you deliver all the telephony features your customers want without deviating from today's standards?
- If you offer traditional PBXs and voice-over-IP alternatives, when do you suggest one over the other and why?
- Can IP telephony products match the reliability and quality of traditional PBXs?

So, put VON on your calendar for April 8-11 in Seattle and, in particular, make sure you come to lunch that Tuesday in the general session room for this enterprise voice-over-IP Showdown. It should make for a good dessert.

— John Dix Editor in chief jdix@nww.com

opinions!

Jumbo Frames

While I applaud Kevin Tolly's advocacy of Jumbo Frames (www.nwfusion.com, DocFinder: 8023), I think it is unfair and overly simplistic to dismiss certain technical issues as a "smokescreen."

In a homogeneous 10G Ethernet network, Jumbo Frames may make sense. But there are nontrivial issues regarding multitenant unit (MTU) discovery and fragmentation management that will accompany any move to Jumbo Frames if you expect to interoperate with legacy networks.

The good news is that storage-area networks might be a crucible for Jumbo Frame implementations and perhaps serve as test beds for the best way to handle the issues around end-to-end MTU management and fragmentation reduction.

I don't think Tolly is doing any good by dismissing valid concerns of the 802.3 committee as political. He would be better off wielding his influence to get the storage vendors to work in concert to drive the committee to a solution that allows Jumbo Frame negotiation at the media access control layer.

Phil Remaker San Jose, Calif.

Not a threat

Regarding "Threat to 'Net" (www.nwfusion.com, DocFinder:8024):I have difficulty believing that multimedia instant messaging will cause the Internet to grind to a halt. Yes, I can "imagine the after-school surge" in activity, but that stress test happened with Napster. Which is bigger: a 3M-byte video file or a 3M-byte audio file? Answer: They're the same. Data is basically data, no matter the payload.

We hear that broadband hasn't reached its potential, and the majority of people use dial-up to access

E-mail letters to jdix@nww.com or send them to John Dix, editor in chief, Network World, 118 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA 01772. Please include phone number and address for verification.

the 'Net. Are these the people that will wait for hours while they send audio and video files?

This level of data transfer is already happening over the Internet. Teens and nonteens move MP3 files, multiplayer game chatter, video, streaming media and so forth. Unless a lot of people start running 1.5M bytes or greater to their houses, the 'Net will do just fine.

Ed Marczak CIO Creative Content Artists New York

Outlawing spam

Regarding Scott Bradner's column "Fantasy lawmaking" (www.nwfusion.com, DocFinder: 8025): Bradner is so bugged by spam that he's suspended what I consider one of the sanest, most intelligent perspectives out there. A little reflection will convince him that legislation is unnecessary and ineffective.

One possible solution to the spam problem is to have every router a packet flows through append the router's ID and the port the packet came in on before sending the packet on its way. This would make every packet traceable to its source or to a noncompliant router. ISPs operating the latter would simply find themselves nonoperable after a time.

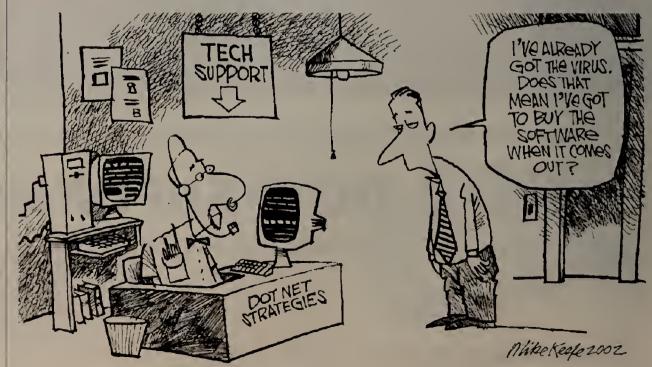
I don't think the extra bytes involved would tax things too much, and the benefit of packet traceability would have numerous other uses.

Walt Pawley Roseburg, Ore.

Bradner replies: What is wrong with insisting that people sending you mail stop doing so when you tell them to stop? And making packets traceable either to their source or to a noncompliant router is mostly meaningless in this context — a lot of mail comes from free accounts at Hotmail and Yahoo or are bounced through unsuspecting third parties.



MORE Online! www.nwfusion.com Find out what readers are saying about these and other topics. DocFinder: 8021





BOTTOM LINE

Joel Snyder

any companies are much more dependent on the Internet than they've ever been. With e-mail, Web-based commerce and VPNs becoming a larger part of most businesses, the Internet is no longer optional.

This means you need to start treating the Internet as if it were part of your network and not some foreign land outside the firewall. For best results, focus on three areas: reliability, management and reporting.

Reliability is the same old story: Are you ready for a disaster? Do you have a back-up plan? This has been hashed out so many times in recent weeks that we don't need to go over it again, except to emphasize that you need a plan for those times when your Internet line goes down or your ISP goes belly-up.

Management means knowing how the Internet is behaving today. Your best tools are the old standbys, ping and traceroute, plus NSLOOKUP for DNS maintenance. Get good versions for your own desktop and learn how to use them.

Ping generally is useful only on a LAN because so many administrators block Internet Control Message Protocol echo packets. Traceroute is really the tool of choice. There are lots of good traceroute tools out there and a bunch of lousy tools. Beware of a traceroute that promises things that are impossible, such as geomapping of the Internet. I use Nanog Traceroute, which I believe is the best. You can get a list of good

Integrating the 'Net into net mgmt.

traceroute implementations at www.traceroute.org.

Figure out all those obscure traceroute options, such as Loose Source and Record Route (LSRR), which are vital for viewing paths in both directions. Now that symmetric routing is a thing of the past, you need to know a lot more about the topology of the Internet to solve problems. If your ISP blocks LSRR packets, as some naive ISPs do, find a new ISP that understands how to operate a backbone. You should also find an Internet-located traceroute server, which can give you a third point of view. (Traceroute.org is a good place to start, or you can use the one I run at www.opus1.com/www/traceroute.html.)

Reporting means knowing how well the Internet is behaving. Get a reporting tool and use it to track Internet uptime, latency and throughput. I use the outstanding freeware Multi-Router Traffic Grapher (www.mrtg.org) for bandwidth statistics and Ipswitch's WhatsUp for uptime and latency, but there are lots of options if you don't like either of those

What is our Internet uptime? What do we do if our main link goes down? How much bandwidth are we using? What is the latency to our most important sites? And how do the packets get there and back? If you can answer those five questions, you'll have properly integrated the Internet into your network management.

Snyder, a Network World Test Alliance partner, is a senior partner at Opus One in Tucson, Ariz. He can be reached at Joel.Snyder @opus1.com.

You need to start treating the Internet as if it were part of your network and not some foreign land outside the firewall.



INDUSTRY COMMENTARY

Frank Dzubeck

en years ago, IBM was a company riding on its reputation for providing legacy computers and communications to enterprise IT users. But Big Blue was late to the game with minicomputers, fumbled the transition to client/server computing, missed

the ascendance of IP as a communications interoperability protocol and had invested billions of dollars in research and development, PC microprocessor technology and operating systems with minimal product market share. The past caught up to IBM in the form of declining revenue, earnings and stock price.

Until the arrival of Lou Gerstner in 1993 as CEO, IBM's organizational and product changes were calculated, slow and methodical. Gerstner brought to IBM a new way of conducting business that accelerated change at the expense of the intrinsic IBM icons of corporate culture, geographical principalities and personnel ego. If results are an indicator of success, IBM has been reinvented, revitalized and wildly successful over the past decade.

Gerstner's tenure at IBM can be best described by the phrase "In like a lion, out like a lamb." As an industry outsider, Gerstner first had to get an education in the state of IBM's businesses, assets, personnel and — most importantly — customer and investment banker opinions as to what was wrong or right within the company. Next, he had to identify which key executives had the technology and skills required to adapt to his way of conducting business. Simultaneously, Gerstner brought in key lieutenants to become his "appendages" in the company's day-to-day operation. The next task was to consolidate assets, reduce personnel and expenses, and identify key technologies and/or operations that could be turned into productive revenue-generating vehicles.

The results were dramatic. IBM corporate strategy was refocused on the customer rather than products and technology. Layers of management were trimmed from the organization chart. Decisions were removed from committees and placed in the hands of executives responsible for the divisional balance sheets. Advertising created a new, younger image for the corporation across the globe. Key growth areas

Assessing the Gerstner era

such as software and services were targeted for investment. Emphasis was placed on new business areas, such as Open Standards, the Internet, e-business, Java, Linux, voice-enablement software and wireless computing. Pension, medical and other personnel benefit plans were reengineered to save money. Salaries and stock options were more equitably distributed. Lastly, the decision was made to reinvest excess cash in company stock on a significant and continual basis rather than to grow via mergers and acquisitions.

All this action occurred in Gerstner's first five years at IBM. The next five years produced little change. Investment analysts began to compare IBM stock growth with that of a bond rather than a typical stock.

IBM is radically different today than in 1993. The concept of quarterly stock buy-back has driven the stock price up 800% over the past decade. The company has shifted away from hardware and software to services (40% of current revenue). Because of this shift, IBM has more employees than in 1993 but less overhead. Big Blue is no longer in the communications systems business but in the communications component business. IBM is still the worldwide leader in patent grants, but now the patent portfolio produces revenue through licenses and products.

Unequivocally, Lou Gerstner has left his imprint on IBM. But that imprint is not a vision for the future. The past five years of riskless status quo can't be a realistic vision of the future for a technology company.

When Gerstner steps down next month, Sam Palmisano will take over as CEO. Palmisano's business acumen, coupled with his mentor Denny Welsh's leadership talents, let IBM grow from an upstart player in the services industry to the dominant force, producing \$40 billion in revenue. That growth orientation, coupled with Palmisano's years of experience in risk management, indicate investment growth may be IBM's new mantra rather than management of earnings per share. Whatever the case, the future of IBM will be based on a sound financial and organizational business footing prepared by Gerstner.

Dzubeck is president of Communications Network Architects, an industry analysis firm in Washington, D.C. He can be reached at fdzubeck@commnetarch.com.

Until the arrival of Gerstner, IBM's organizational and product changes were calculated, slow and methodical.





BY EVAN ROSEN

Donald Western, a vice president at Caterpillar, manages global teams from his office in Peoria, where two video screens are mounted on the wall.

Large companies with project teams spread over several countries and multiple time zones are increasingly turning to videoconferencing to connect geographically dispersed groups.

Companies are realizing that flying employees from one location to the next not only chalks up travel costs, but also decreases productivity and leads to team exhaustion. Of course, videoconferencing isn't a complete replacement for face-to-face meetings. Companies that are leading the way in videoconferencing report that periodic in-person visits are still necessary, and they caution that videoconferencing is most effective if team members already have an existing relationship.

But the trend toward IP-based videoconferencing equipment, rather than ISDN-based units, and the spread of IP networks is clearly making it easier than ever for companies to roll out videoconferencing.

Dow Chemical is leading the charge. Dow has hired Electronic Data Systems (EDS) to build a global network, dubbed DowNet, that will deliver video, voice and data over a single, largely IP-based network. The core infrastructure is primarily fiber-optic cable, carrying mostly IP traffic, although there will be some ATM. And end users can receive bandwidth on demand over VPN links. EDS is supporting the network from operations

centers globally, and Cisco is providing the infrastructure.

"It's an aggressive undertaking," says Christopher Duncan, who is leading the DowNet project. A key application that the network will support is videoconferencing. Dow is deploying 300 PC-based PictureTel group videoconferencing and collaboration systems, a move that will triple the number of units currently installed. The systems run at 384K bit/sec and let teams simultaneously collaborate on applications, data and whiteboards via Microsoft NetMeeting software.

By March, Dow will convert

one-third of its conference
rooms globally into what it
calls iRooms, which house
the videoconferencing systems.
Dow is also deploying 200 Polycom
ViaVideo personal videoconferencing
systems at desktops globally, twice as many

as the company planned to deploy before Sept.

11. Dow is putting some personal systems, which run at panagers' homes so they can communicate in the evening

128K bit/sec, in managers' homes so they can communicate in the evening with team members in other parts of the world.

"Roles are becoming more global. Our scope is becoming larger and larger,"

for face TIME

Global companies build IP-based videoconferencing networks to link project teams.

Duncan says. "There is no way you can go out of the office and see face-to-face everyone you are responsible to. That includes customers, direct reports and your boss."

Wireless video on the factory floor

The distance leadership tentacles at Dow also extend to the factory floor in its automotive plastic parts business. The company has blended videoconferencing systems with wireless technology at plants in suburban Detroit and Grand Rapids, Mich., so a manager 100 miles away or team members in

Switzerland or the Netherlands can view prototype parts as they come off the line.

The system also lets Dow get immediate customer feedback. "We have avoided the cost of travel. We have also solved our customers' problems instantly, which allows our customers to solve their customers' problems," says Daniel Denardo, Dow's manager of global videoconferencing.

The increased efficiency of using a single global IP network and the flexibility of PC-based videoconferencing are letting Dow integrate streaming video with videoconferencing. This will let home users with limited bandwidth connections join videoconferences, even though the video will be one-way. "At least they can watch and participate through instant text messaging." Duncan says.

Where there is a business need, Dow will pay for broadband connections for home users. Rather than contracting with a service provider, Dow is letting each employee select the technology and provider. Dow is also integrating DowNet with its global satellite system, using videoconferencing as a downlink. When Dow CEO Michael Parker delivers his quarterly "State of the Company" speeches to Dow's 50,000 employees, many employees will watch the satellite address through videoconferencing systems.

While Dow's global IP network is perhaps the most state-ofthe-art among global companies, many other corporations are chalking up impressive productivity gains by encouraging

Tools for global teams

- Videoconferencing: This tool lets people see each other as they talk. A point-to-point videoconference connects two locations, while a multipoint videoconference links three or more sites. Most legacy videoconference systems run over ISDN and comply with H.320 international standards, but newer systems support IP connections and support the H.323 international standards for videoconferencing over packetswitched networks.
- Data collaboration: This includes application sharing, whiteboarding, instant-text messaging and file transfer. These collaboration tools turn a videoconference into a full-featured video meeting. A graphical presentation or whiteboard may fill most of the screen with two small video windows displaying the faces of the videoconference participants. Some users skip the video and use teleconferencing with data collaboration tools.
- Video mail: This is a video message delivered as an e-mail attachment. Video mail is useful when time zone barriers render real-time interactions impractical. The video message may show a prototype, an animated product design, or the face of a manager describing a problem or delivering kudos.
- Streaming video: This is a video clip stored on a server and sent in compressed form over a network such as the Internet. Users can then view the clip through a Web browser, A videoconference can be taped, stored for reference, and made available via streaming to those who missed the real-time video meeting. Many companies use streaming video to delive CEO speeches to the troops.

teans to communicate and collabo
control to the control of the collaboration.

factors in leading and particular in global teams include establishing a face-to-face relationship to for holding video meetings and the collaborations.

Walking the virtual hallway

Parker Hannifin is using a "virtual hallway" concept in its Compumotor division to link a design and engineering group in Milford, Ohio, with a factory automation group in Rohnert Park, Calif.

If an employee walks into Con-

ference Room 14 in the California office, it almost feels like the Ohio office. Parker Hannifin accomplishes a degree of telepresence, or the feeling of being at the other location, by leaving videoconferencing systems on regardless of whether a video meeting is scheduled. Both locations have PictureTel 680 systems and dedicated T-1 connections with 384K bit/sec allocated to the virtual hallway. "You can see the secretaries in Ohio crossing the hall," says Bud Parer, the division's California-based IS manager. "The accounting person in Ohio can see us and wave."

Parker Hannifin's Compumotor division supplies motors and controllers that do everything from filling ketchup bottles in factories to spraying water through the fountains at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas. The division began using videoconferencing to manage a merger with a partner that is now its human-machine interface group in Ohio. Both teams have worked at a distance while integrating financial systems, tech support, repair process management and quality control. "In some cases, we were implementing network security while we were on videoconferencing. I'd say to my counterpart, I'll meet

Distance dollars: The cost of linking teams

hat is the return on investment of uniting geographically dispersed teams? The value of faster decision making and more effective problem resolution can be many times the dollars spent on technology. If teams use communication and collaboration technologies effectively, these tools and the networks that support them can save companies millions of dollars.

When Parker Hannifin considered deploying videoconferencing, the company conducted no formal cost analysis, because "the pay out was so obvious," according to Parker Hannifin's California IS manager Bud Parer. "It was back of the envelope. There are going to be lots of airplane flights. With a couple of flights, we can pay for the systems."

A major cost for many companies is video transport charges. However, using part of a dedicated connection blurs the cost of transporting video. Parker Hannifin pays \$2,400 per month for two T-1s that support a variety of data, including video.

While Caterpillar uses ISDN and pays for each minute of use, the company keeps transport costs in check by using a modest 128K bit/sec as its default videoconferencing line speed. "Why do you need to do high-bandwidth calls if you can get sufficient business quality at 128 [K bit/sec]?" insists Gus Otto of Caterpillar. "You don't need 384 [K bit/sec]."

The Dow approach of deploying video, voice and data over a single global IP network could ultimately deliver the greatest return on investment. While Dow refuses to provide dollar figures on the infrastructure costs, the company believes that it is creating the ultimate team-uniting mechanism.

Poster child for distance leadership

ike Kolleth leads a 10-person group that runs Dow's Web site. The group is based at Dow headquarters in Midland, Mich. However, Kolleth works from an office near Zurich, Switzerland. "I've become a poster child, for better or worse, for leading geographically dispersed teams," he says.

While Kolleth grew up in Midland and worked from headquarters for several years, he prefers to live in Switzerland because his fiancé is there. Because Europe has lagged behind North America in implementing e-business, Dow wants Kolleth to concentrate his efforts on Europe.

For Kolleth, videoconferencing and data collaboration fill the gaps between trips to Midland every two months. He chalks up five hours per week of video-

conferencing, using video to meet with his team and to address new Dow employees. Kolleth notes that distance collaboration is ingrained in Dow's corporate culture, and that his team members are anything but strangers. "Fundamental in managing a team from this distance is that I knew and had worked with all of these people before assuming this job," Kolleth says. "So I'm just building on existing relationships."

you in the [virtual hallway] in 3 minutes," says Parer, who at times has spent up to five hours a day in video meetings. The frenzy of merger management sparked the spontaneous interactions that are now commonplace at Parker Hannifin.

Caterpillar: Videoconferences on the fly

Caterpillar, a \$20 billion per year manufacturer of industrial and farm equipment, encourages global teams to master communication and collaboration tools. The company has deployed more than 300 PictureTel 970 group systems

and has deployed so many personal systems that it has lost track of the number. Caterpillar uses a gateway that lets teams using ISDN connections communicate and collaborate with others connected via IP.

While managers schedule 1,400 hours of video meetings per month, many more video interactions happen on the fly. "We knew we needed the ability to communicate ad hoc with anybody anywhere," says Gus Otto, Caterpillar's new technology design engineer. "We make decisions quickly by involving team members. Six minds are better than one. While other companies are making plans, we're interacting."

Donald Western, a Caterpillar vice president, runs the company's large engine and fuel systems division. He manages teams

around the globe from his office at Caterpillar headquarters in Peoria, Ill. On his office wall hangs a 60-inch plasma screen that displays teams at six global sites. "I can call a [general manager] at the spur of the moment if we have a current issue that we have to talk about now. It's just like picking up the phone," Western says. "We are a global company, yet we are a very close company."

Those who practice distance management insist that it is essential to press the flesh with team members before establishing a video relationship, and that periodic face-to-face meetings are critical. "You've got to have a personal relationship with senior managers in each location," Western says. "The only way you get that is through the investment of time and energy. You have to do that on the ground. You can't let videoconferencing do that for you."

Rosen speaks on distance leadership and broadband topics. He is chief strategist of Impact Video Communication in San Francisco and can be reached at erosen@impactvid.com.

Challenges remain

Reading body language Donald Western of Caterpillar places a premium on making eye contact and reading body language, because he says a team member's words say one thing, but the body language says something very different. And usually the body language is more accurate.

Culture clashes
Distance meeting tools may
be available, but their use is by
no means automatic. "It's tough
to convince high-level managers
who are used to flying to different locations to use videoconferencing," says Bud Parer of
Parker Hannifin. "When they
come back and say that videoconferencing is not as good as
being there, I agree with them.
But they agree with me that it's

3. Creating common objectives

better than a phone call."

Perhaps the biggest challenge is to ensure common objectives. Western puts it this way: "When you are dispersed around the world, the whole team has to be on the same page." To this end, some companies are flattening hierarchies so that information can flow unimpeded up and down the chain of command.

Crossmark, which outsources services including marketing and merchandising to consumer package companies, is shifting its corporate culture to open information flow. More than 18 months ago, CEO O.R. Smith began encouraging Crossmark's 10,000 employees to e-mail him about any major issue. In turn, other executives opened the e-mail floodgates, and the company can now resolve issues faster.

Besides e-mail, Crossmark is encouraging greater use of video meetings. The company currently uses videoconferencing from four domestic sites, but is adding at least a dozen Tandberg group systems by May. Crossmark, of Plano, Texas, currently uses line speeds of 384K to 768K bit/sec over ISDN primary rate interface, but is transitioning to IP-based videoconferencing.

William Norris, president of Crossmark's sales and marketing division, says, "The biggest challenge is to ensure that our focus, priorities, direction and culture are well understood."



"We are a global company, yet we are a very close company."

-Donald Western,

Caterpillar, vice president

Management **BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION**

Slim down, shape up

Putting your network on a simplification diet can pay off.

BY BONNY GEORGIA

Maintaining a high level of service on a flat or reduced budget is a challenge facing many IT executives. Simplifying your network can slash support and maintenance costs and free up hidden dollars for your department, says Jim Metzler, vice president of IT consulting firm Ashton, Metzler & Associates.

If something isn't adding value to your network, perhaps it's time to remove it. However, some targets of simplification are more obvious than others.

C5 Editorial, a sound postproduction company in New York, was drowning in physical hard drives until supervising sound editor and network administrator Lew Goldstein took the plunge and built a storage-area network (SAN) to house the company's massive sound-effects library.

"For every feature film, we typically have five or six people working on the soundtrack. Although they're doing different parts of the film, there's information that needs

to be common between them," Goldstein says. Rather than share the same files, sound engineers relied on hundreds of hard drives that were carried between desktops as needed.

After doing some research, Goldstein built a SAN using Gadzoox Capellix switches combined with ATTO Technologies' ExpressPCl Fibre Channel host bus adapters and AccelWare drive-management software. At the heart of the system are two racks with 16 Seagate 73-gigabyte Fibre Channel drives. The system cost around \$25,000 but returned

immediate dividends in improved file sharing and flexibility.

"Right now, we have about three terabytes worth of storage shared among 27 users editing feature films, including 'Men in Black II' and an animated film called 'Ice Age.' The SAN has eliminated a tremendous amount of redundancy, and drastically changed every way we're working," he says. The system is also simple to administer.

When defense contractor Northrop Grumman wanted to streamline printing and copying, Dave Licher, manager of sector print services in Hawthorne, Calif., counted more than 40 contracts for 2,500 copiers, printers and fax machines. Sidelining the stand-alone machines and leasing a fleet of 900 high-speed multifunction Xerox Document Centres slashed the need for IT printer support by 90%, thanks in large part to a Web-based printer administration center.

"The real beauty of this system is Web-based self help. Users can print to any printer in the country that is linked to the network Web site. That same Web site also has FAQs and how-to [information] that show people how to map their own drivers with step-by-step instructions, something they were totally dependent on IT for before," Licher says.

Having one lease that includes consumables and maintenance saves thousands in administrative and purchase order costs, and the flexibility to run high-speed, high-volume print jobs from any desktop let the company close several copy centers. "We now maintain just one copy center per site for color jobs and other things we must closely control," Licher says. Northrop Grumman has realized a seven-figure return on investment (ROI) so far, more than double Licher's estimate for the project.

Steve Shim, director of IT services at Health First in Brevard County, Fla., oversees a network of 40 healthcare clinics and three major hospitals spanning a 400-mile area. Of particular concern to Shim was Health First's telecom infrastructure, a chaotic mix of equipment from multiple vendors.

There were outdated key set systems, many of which didn't support voice mail, five-digit dialing between locations or other advanced features. The mix of equipment and voice

mail systems meant multiple maintenance contracts as well," Shim says.

Health First invested a little less than \$2 million to roll out a Siemens HiPath telecom system. The organization deployed Siemens HiPath switches in the hospitals and

> Replacing outdated key systems and phones with Siemens remote shelf technology at outside locations lowered maintenance costs and eliminated the need for outside service contracts. Remote clinics now enjoy the same calling services that the main hospitals have.

> Bill Benton, telecom manager for Health First, says ROI for the project will be achieved sooner than planned, thanks to streamlined maintenance and the abil-

SAN streamlines sound editing

Sound postproduction company C5 Editorial rolled out a storage-area network to host the firm's massive sound-effects library. Here's how engineers use it:

An engineer working on the film "Ice Age" requests a file from the sound library. headquarters. **Mac editing stations Mac editing stations** 2 The SAN switch routes his request. Gadzoox Capellix 3000HA MMM **MMMM** Fibre Channel **Gadzoox Capellix 2000** Sound library Video playback ity to run the new network with existing IT staff.

> 3 The sound library sends the file to the engineer via the SAN switch.

The key to a successful simplification starts with a thorough audit, Metzler says. An audit highlights opportunities to standardize on specific vendors, consolidate redundant tools, limit the number of designs in your network, and reduce versions of software.

However, audits are no easy task, especially in a large enterprise or decentralized environment. If your IT team has been lax in record keeping or recent acquisitions have made cataloging installations difficult, appointing an action team can help. Licher of Northrop Grumman asked the manager responsible for each copier contract to get together with the IT person for the site. "Each team member was asked to gather data on how many printers, copiers and faxes were located there, and report back," he says.

Once you've identified key inefficiencies, be prepared to demonstrate how they affect the IT budget. "For example, if the whole company wants PCs, but a department is determined to keep their Macs, it translates into added maintenance and support dollars," Metzler says.

Lastly, find out who is using the technology, what they're using it for, and research the effect that the proposed simplification will have on them before any cuts are made. "You don't want to announce you'll no longer support Macs and discover that means you've cut off payroll," Metzler says.

Georgia is a freelance writer in Hudson, Mass. She can be reached at bonny@words. work.net.



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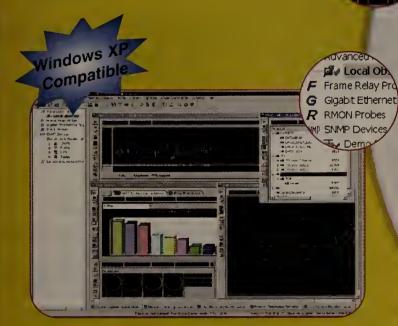
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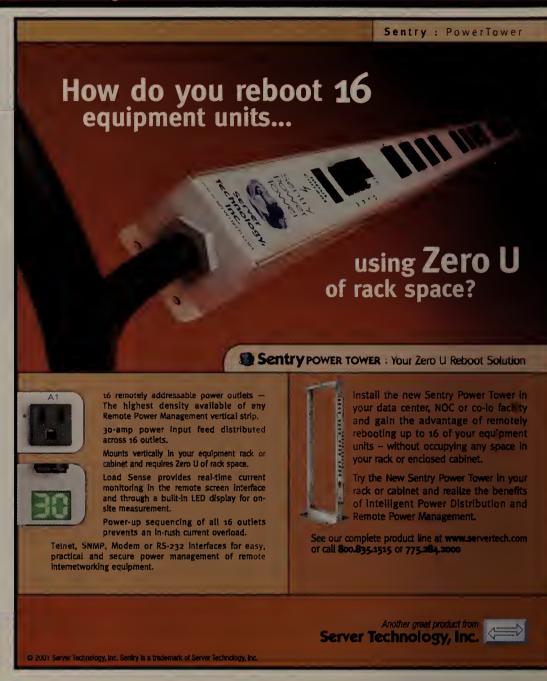
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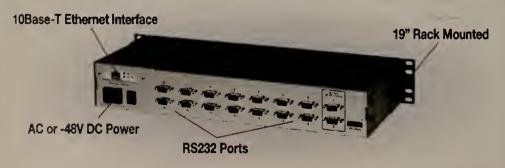


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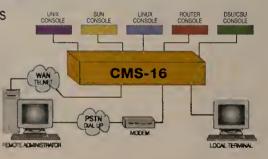
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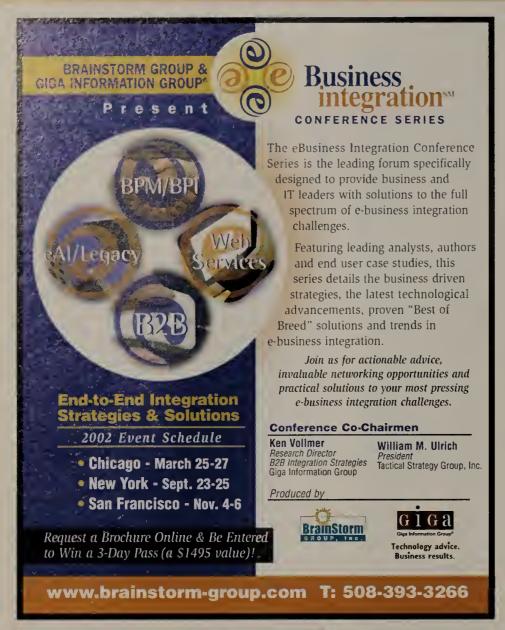
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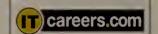
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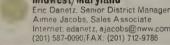
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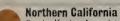
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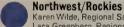
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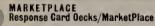
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118 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA 01772 Phone: (508) 460-3333

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■ Editorial Index

■ A	
Aerie Networks	
Alcatel	_1,32
Alohabob	30
AT&T Wireless	6
Avaya	_ 32
Avian Communications	_ 25
■ B	
BEA Systems	
BellSouth	
British Telecom	6
■ C	
Cable & Wireless	23
CacheFlow	
Cisco	
Contour Designs	
Cray	16
■ D	
Dell	.16
■ E	
eConvergent	10
Electronic Data Systems	23, 34
Enterasys	6
Equinix	8
	_ 23

■ H	
Hewlett-Packard	8
=1	
IBM	8, 23, 33
InFocus	
Intel	8
Interliant	10
■ J	
Jameracker	
■ L	
LapLink	30
Lucent	25.
■ M	
Metricom	
Microsoft	6, 8, 34
■ N	
NEC	
NetPlane Systems	25
Network Associates	1, 14
Network Plus	23.
Nortel	32
Ntera	25
■ 0	
Oracle	8, 17
■ P	
Palm	14

Partnerware	10
PeopleSoft	17
PictureTel _	34
PoliVec	17
■ 0	
Quick Eagle	15
Owest Cyber Solutions	23
Owest Cyber Solutions	20.
■ R	
RightNow Technologies	17
■ S	
Salesforce.com	17
Salesnet	17
SANcastle Technologies	15
SAP	8
Shoreline Communications	32
Siebel Systems	17
Siemens	.15
SonicWall	_ 25
Sprint	23
Sun	6, 8, 10
■ T	
Telecomputing	10
TeleCorp.PCS	6.
■ U	
UpShot	17
Z	
Zone Labs	17, 21

Advertiser Index

GigaFast_

AdvertiserP	age #	URI
Avaya	9	www.avaya.com
Avocent Corp	22	www.avocent.com
Buyuptime.com	40_	www.buyuptime.com
CIDI	38, 51	www.ctdi.com
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Covalent	26-27	www.covalent.com
Cyclades Corp	39	www.cyclades.com
Equinox Systems Inc	39	www.equinox.com
Foundry Networks	19_	www.foundrynetworks.com
Global Technology Associates	41.	www.gta.con
IBM	2-3, 31	www.ibm.com
Learnkey Inc	39	www.learnkey.com
Network Appliance	11_	www.netapp.com
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Partnerpoint	24.	www.parnetpoiot.org
Princeton Softech	7	www.storesmarter.com
Riverstone Networks	52	www.riverstonenet.com
Rose Electronics	40	www.rose.com
Server Technology	42	www.servertech.com
Toshiba	20	www.toshiba.com
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Alcatel

continued from page 1

switching and voice-over-IP markets, it has no PBX customer base and users and analysts consider it a bit green as a player in the telecom market. Enterasys, Extreme Networks and Foundry Networks do not offer IP voice products. Key channel partnerships that Alcatel has made recently also will help.

Alcatel will introduce the OmniSwitch 8800 for large enterprise backbones, and the OmniSwitch 7700 and 7800 for enterprise wiring closets or midsize enterprise backbones.

The three boxes are being positioned as alternatives to products such as Cisco's Catalyst 6500 and 4000, Extreme's Black-Diamond, Foundry's Biglron and Fastlron, and Nortel's Passport 8600 switch.

With support for 384 Gigabit Ethernet ports, the OmniSwitch 8800 tops all competing products in terms of Gigabit density, Alcatel says, while its 8800 and 7000 series products will cost up to 60% less than similarly configured products from competitors.

"Alcatel's switching division has been in the witness protection program for the past two years," says Stan Schatt, vice president at Giga Information Group, pointing out that Alcatel has not had a major switch product release since its OmniCore backbone switch was launched in 2000. The OmniSwitch line, he adds, "will go a long way in getting credibility in large enterprises."

The OmniSwitch 8800 is a 16slot chassis intended for the core of large companies' networks. It can support a maximum of 384 Gigabit Ethernet ports, 680 10/100M bit/sec ports or a mix. Line cards will include an eight-port minigigabit interface converter card and an eight-port Gigabit copper blade as well as 24-port mini-GBIC and RJ45 10/100/1000 cards. In the third quarter, a single-port 10G Ethernet card will be available.

Standard OmniSwitch features include Layer 2-Layer 4 switching and quality of service (QoS) with 802.1p tagging and type-of-service prioritization. For security, per-port virtual LAN authentication — requiring users to sign on to a VLAN through a Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service server — and access control lists (ACL) are also standard.

Controlling traffic

Three OmniSwitch 8800s will be installed as the core network at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Md., along with an OmniSwitch 7700 and OmniStack stackable switches to replace the school's FORE ATM-based backbone and 3Com hubs. Besides the muchneeded upgrade in bandwidth, the QoS and ACL controls also will be useful for controlling traffic, says Jerry Waldron, CIO at Salisbury.

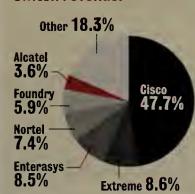
"What we would not like to do is clamp down on one type of file or technology students use," Waldron says, but adds that he plans to use to the OmniSwitch QoS features "to allow students who need to use our databases to have priority over other things."

The OmniSwitch 7700 and 7800 are 10- and 18-slot chassis, respectively, each with 128G bit/sec switching capacity. The

The lowdown

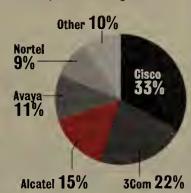
While Alcatel has lagged in the high-end datacom market...

Q3 2001 Gigabit Ethernet switch revenue:



...it has a good portion of the U.S. IP PBX market.

Q3 2001 IP PBX shipments, 400-1,000 user systems:



SOURCES: DELL 'ORO GROUP, PHILLIPS INFO TECH

But many challenges remain, including:

- 1. Using its new end-to-end family of products to win customers.
- 2. Highlighting circuit-switched to IP migration.
- 3. Expanding sales channels and integration partnerships.

7700 is aimed at large customer wiring closets and will offer more Layer 3 switching capacity and better failover functions than competing wiring closet boxes, such as Cisco's Catalyst 4000 and Extreme's Alpine. The 7800 could also be used in large wiring closets or in a midsize backbone, according to Alcatel.

Interchangeable line cards for both chassis include two-port GBIC and 12-port mini-GBIC or 10/100/1000 copper ports. Twenty four-port 10/100 cards with in-line power are also available for providing power to devices such as IP phones or wireless LAN access points over Category 5 cable.

Jumbo frames also are supported on all switches for letting Ethernet frames larger than the standard 1.5K bytes be sent, which can be useful for large data transfers between high-volume servers. The three chassis also support redundant management modules for handling management blade failover.

The OmniSwitch line is the first switch from Alcatel that fully integrates the Layer 3 switching and VLAN security technology the company obtained via the acquisitions of Packet Engines and Xylan between 1998 and 1999, according to Giga's Schatt.

"They had real problems with those acquisitions at first because none of the firmware worked together between the Packet Engines and Xylan stuff," Schatt says. "But they've managed to get it all under the same operating system now, which is significant."

The OmniSwitch 8800 will cost between \$73,000 and \$153,000 depending on configuration, while the OmniSwitch 7700 and 7800 will cost between \$33,800 and \$42,000. All three chassis and all modules will be available in March, with 10 Gigabit blades to come in the third quarter.

Connecting remote offices

Along with its new enterprise switches, Alcatel is expected to announce two VPN gateways aimed at connecting remote offices to an enterprise head-quarters. At the RSA Security show next week, the company will debut the OmniAccess 210 and 250 for small branch offices and large site-to-site VPNs, respectively.

The OmniAccess 210 will offer Triple-DES throughput of 10M bit/sec for 500 VPN tunnels, while the 250 will perform 70M bit/sec of Triple-DES traffic for 2,500 tunnels, according to sources. The OmniAccess 250 increases the number of tunnels by 500 over Alcatel's previous 7137 VPN gateway and puts the company's VPN offering ahead of Enterasys' Aurorian gateway, and on par with Cisco's 3000 series VPN concentrator.

To help push its new gear into U.S. corporate IT shops, Alcatel has signed agreements with channel partners Verizon and Nextira for selling data and voice gear, and IBM Global Services as a network integra-

tion partner.

These agreements will be almost as important as the new products in getting companies to take a look at Alcatel, observers say.

Convergence is a virtue

One technical advantage for using the OmniSwitch products in an enterprise wiring closet is with voice over IP because the switches' redundant management modules could increase switch availability, says Lawrence Orans, senior analyst with Gartner.

"Before enterprises are ready to deploy IP telephony, they will need to beef up the overall availability of their LANs. Many LAN products already offer increased availability in the core, but not in the wiring closet" switches, Orans says.

Some users agree with this strategy.

"We wanted to make sure that we don't have to turn in these switches when we want to go with voice over IP," says Tony Stancil, Salisbury's data/telecom director, who helped evaluate the OmniSwitches for the school.

Even though IP voice is not an immediate project at the university, Stancil says, "we feel pretty comfortable we will have that capacity with the Alcatel switches in the future because they are both a voice and data company."

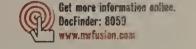
Alcatel has been a sleeping giant of sorts in the U.S. enterprise market. The \$22 billion firm has had trouble establishing itself as either a complete network infrastructure provider — like Cisco, Enterasys, Nortel or Avaya — or a high-speed switch maker such as Extreme or Foundry.

Alcatel says one-fifth of its revenue comes from the enterprise market.

"Alcatel is an engineering company," says Farhad Engineer, MIS manager at Sequenom, a San Diego genetics research company.

Sequenom last year installed four OmniCore 5022 backbone switches for its office network, and Engineer says he would consider upgrading to the OmniSwitch products. "Their products are great," he says.

"If anything, they are lousy at marketing," he says. "That's why you don't hear about Alcatel as much as Cisco or Nortel and Lucent and Extreme. Certainly their products match up."



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BackSpin Mark Gibbs



Let the software buyer beware

"Let's say we buy a new room for a house. It is all complete and comes with a wooden bench. Let's call it 'Bench 3.11.' It is a basic wood bench, somewhat sturdy and fashionable for the times. It is the only bench suitable for use in this room.

After a while, it gets a little worn and rickety, but it is still a decent bench for sitting on. The only way you can get the bench is if you buy the room to keep it in, and you are not allowed to keep it in any other room by licensing agreement. Does this sound ridiculous yet? Wait, it gets better!"

— The start of a fairly humorous diatribe from reader Glenn Bloom after a recent Backspin column (www.nwfusion.com, DocFinder: 8061)

Last week's column was a follow-up to a piece (www.nwfusion.com, DocFinder: 8062) that advocated dongles as a way of dealing with software piracy. In the ensuing furor many issues emerged, some of which I "had at" last week. However, there were a few issues that I didn't get to: First, morality.

A reader wrote: "Perhaps another reason why people don't feel the need for software protection is that it doesn't seem that anyone is really hurting? ...ls Microsoft financially hurting? Have they had to do massive layoffs because of the money lost to [software pirates]? No....Microsoft is doing quite well.1

would be willing to wager that the companies that make the top 10 pirated software programs are quite successful as well. This is a matter of the rich wanting to get much richer and, past a certain point, people really don't care."

Do I really need to point out what is wrong with this thinking?

The other big issue concerned my comparing building furniture to building software. What I wrote was: "If I build a piece of software and you take a copy without paying me, there are many people who would not judge your actions as harshly as your theft of [a chair I made] ... the reality is that the theft of the software represents a real loss to me ... the work that I performed in creating the software was every bit as real as the work! put in to making the chair, and my rights to my creation and the profit there from should not be violated."

Reader Dan Cottler immediately riposted with: "I can go to a store and select from a wide range of chairs....If I buy a chair you designed and manufactured, it's MINE. I can do with it what I please, where I please. If I choose to resell it, you have NO say. If I choose to chop a leg off and stick it into my [work d'art], you have (mostly) NO say. If I choose to use it at a different table, you have NO say."

Dan is correct, to a point. That point is not only how the product (software, furniture or paintings) is licensed but also how it is copyrighted. Even though you own a painting it isn't yours to reuse as you please. This means you can't use the painting on the cover of a magazine without infringing the rights of the artist — it is your picture but his copyright.

Going back to the chair, if you signed a license when you took delivery of the chair and it said something like, "This is a work of art and despite this product looking a lot like a chair we do not recommend you use it for any particular purpose which includes, but is not limited, to sitting on it," and you sat on it anyway and it broke, then tough: The license warned you.

Folks, it all comes down to caveat emptor — let the buyer beware. You don't have to buy the software. But if you do, if you put down your hard-earned cash, then we can assume that you're making an informed choice that includes considering the terms of the license.

Software is far more complex than how you use a chair or a painting and how you use it is far less restricted and far more unpredictable.

Licensing is required to protect those who originate and sell the software from those uncertainties because without licensing they wouldn't create software, and then you wouldn't have the opportunity to enhance your business through its use. Caveat emptor.

Next week . . . well, wait and see. Meantime, warnings to nwcolumn@gibbs.com.



'Net Buzz News, insights, opinions and oddities

Paul McNamara

Don't get your hopes up

Want to know why controlling spam seems harder than changing the weather?

Look no further than a pair of recent initiatives, one from the Direct Marketing Association (DMA), the other from a nonprofit organization called TRUSTe. These efforts purport to promise e-mail users relief from spam and its attendant scam

artists, but actually offer little more than false hope.

Let's start with the disingenuous one. Any DMA denouncement of spam is much like those antismoking public-service ads from Philip Morris: Given the messenger's real agenda, the message is not to be taken seriously.

Nevertheless, the DMA did garner headlines last week with its self-promoting pronouncement of a set of commercial e-mail "guidelines" for its members. "Based on the guidelines, solicitations sent online should disclose the marketer's identity, and the subject line should be clear, honest and not misleading," the DMA proclaims.

That's all motherhood and apple pie.

But what you really need to know about these DMA "guidelines" is that they continue to rely on that favorite fig leaf of commercial e-mailers who want to send spam but still pretend they are being responsible: opt-out. This means the mass remains on the recipient to stem the flow of unwanted junk.

Any me who is serious about policing commercial e-mail and controlling spam by a go abandoned the pretense that providing recipients with a convenient mashs to avoid future spam is doing enough.

RUST initiative may look slightly more promising—emphasis on slightly—II—Light not get anyone too excited. TRUSTe is joining with a privacy—in plany, ePrivacy Group, to promote an e-mail seal-of-approval pro-

gram called Trusted Sender. The program, which will include high-profile beta testers such as Microsoft and DoubleClick, is designed to separate the trustworthy commercial e-mail from the garbage.

The problem is that the companies that would be eager to participate in a program such as Trusted Sender are not the con artists responsible for the vast majority of spam. They already practice good e-mail etiquette, more or less.

Yes, there are things to like about the principles being codified within Trusted Sender, and there may be a possibility of using a system such as this to filter spam at various levels in the food chain.

However, envisioning the day when Trusted Sender enjoys wide enough adoption for anyone to presume that nonparticipants are spammers requires more imagination than Buzz can muster.

How not to land a job in high-tech

Securing a high-tech job these days is tough enough without shooting yourself in the . . . um, I guess "private parts" would apply here.

Did you catch this story in *The Washington Post*? In a nutshell, a job seeker in his late 30s walks into a high-tech company and makes it through a few preliminary interviews, at which point he convinces himself that he's zeroing in on the job. They have him fill out an application, which includes a blank labeled "Sex."

Our man answers "Yes."

He doesn't get the job — surprise, surprise — and, this being America, he now feels victimized. He told the newspaper he might sue the company that decided it didn't need a 12-year-old masquerading as a grown-up.

Of course the company should not have hired this knucklehead. Not because of the sophomoric humor, per se, but because no one should knowingly bring into their organization a person who so clearly has no common sense.

Want to tell the columnist to lighten up? Try buzz@nww.com.



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